

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

THE appearance of Mr. Gladstone's address to the electors of Greenwich in the morning papers of Saturday last, startled the British public almost as much as a thunderbolt from an unclouded sky might have done. It announces the immediate dissolution of Parliament, and an instant appeal of the Crown to the constituencies for the election of a new one, and it set forth with a copiousness of language which Mr. Disraeli has characterised as "prolix," the claims of the present Government to the continued support of the Liberal party. This extremely abrupt move on the part of the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues, admitting that it may be capable of justification, can hardly escape the application to it of the phrase, well known among lawyers, "sharp practice." It is not a *coup d'état* certainly, but it is a decided departure from Constitutional custom. That it will succeed in the main we can hardly permit ourselves to doubt. As a stroke of party tactics there is much to be said in its favour. The financial policy of the Government having been selected as the *cheval de bataille* for the next session, it was unquestionably a matter of no small moment to prevent the Opposition from inflicting a serious defeat on the Ministers of the Crown, and thus compelling their retirement, before the opportunity should occur for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to submit to the House of Commons the details of the scheme to the general outline of which the Cabinet has given its assent. It was probably in anticipation of some such manoeuvres on the part of Mr. Disraeli, that a resolution was arrived at to meet that and other difficulties of the Parliamentary situation by an appeal forthwith to the decision of the constituencies, and we are hardly prepared to pronounce that decision altogether unjustifiable.

We cannot say, however, that we think the domestic policy of the country will be likely to derive as much profit from this abrupt appeal to the electors, as the Liberals may do in a party sense. Strictly interpreted, it is a magnificent bribe to the nation. It offers the total abolition of the income-tax, and some approach to "a free breakfast table," as an inducement to the constituent bodies to uphold the existing Government. Now we

have nothing to say against their being upheld. They are very much to be preferred to any Conservative Government of which we can conceive. They may have sinned largely against the political principles with which we have been accustomed to identify the highest interest of the people, but, as compared with an administration headed by the Right Hon. Member for Buckinghamshire, our choice, even in respect for those principles, would be strongly in their favour. What we chiefly regret about the time and manner of this appeal to the country is that it has been made under circumstances calculated to call forth the lowest motives by which the constituencies can be prompted, to the certain detriment of those higher ones which would give some assurance of political progress. It may ensure the stability of the present Government, but will it necessarily, or even probably, lay a foundation for the furtherance of those reforms to which public opinion has for some time past steadily pointed? We are afraid not. We cannot free ourselves from the apprehension that a House of Commons called together under the dominant operation of those motives which have been appealed to on this occasion will be found an instrument but ill-adapted to carry to maturity those questions which more closely touch the vital interests of the community.

We do not speak thus because we entertain any serious fear that the cause of religious equality will suffer material injury from the suddenness of this great constitutional contest. Looking at the character of the constituencies by which that cause has been supported, and of the men who have publicly pledged their adhesion to it, we cannot profess much misgiving as to the probabilities that they will be able to hold their own. Some personal changes might have been anticipated at a general election howsoever it might be brought about. But there is no good reason for concluding that the principles themselves will sustain great disadvantage owing to the abrupt character of the strain by which they are about to be tested. A short, sharp, unexpected struggle will affect both parties for good or for evil very much in the same way, and, possibly, to much about the same extent. Surprise will probably disclose as much pith, promptitude, presence of mind, and courageous enterprise, in the Nonconformists, or, perhaps we may more properly say, in advanced Liberals, as in those who lack their energy of motive. Very much will now depend upon the unhesitating boldness with which candidates of the right sort are pushed to the front. The extreme suddenness of the occasion will put into the hands of such as are first on the ground a powerful additional leverage by which to press home their claims. Many a battle in the forthcoming election will be won by a *coup de main*. No time has been left for indecisive negotiations. What is done must be done in faith, and done at once. The only advice we can now commend to the adoption of our friends is, be quick, be resolute, and put out all the strength you have, in the confident assurance that a contest lost now will prepare the way for future triumph.

We are sorry to see that Mr. Gladstone in his Greenwich manifesto offers no encouragement to that wing of his army which takes the deepest interest in politico-ecclesiastical questions. "As regards the important Act of 1870 for the promotion of education," he tells his

constituents, "I am one of those who had no preference for the later over the earlier adjustments of the bill. But they were adjustments adapted to the state of public opinion at the time, and it appears to me that no main provision of the measure can advantageously be reconsidered without the aid of an experience such as we have not yet acquired. With regard to one or two points calculated to create an amount of uneasiness out of proportion to their real importance or difficulty, I do not doubt that the wisdom of the renovated Legislature will discover the means of their accommodation." This is the only paragraph which touches upon any question of a quasi-ecclesiastical nature. Read by the light of Mr. Forster's subsequent speech at Bradford, it can only be taken to mean that no concession of the least importance is contemplated. We look upon it as a fair warning that the party of religious equality will be left to act by themselves, and that, under the auspices of the present Government, the very principles of religious equality will be ignored to the whole extent which party convenience may prescribe.

Well, be it so. We must close up our ranks, and play the part of men. It is not by any means improbable that the proportion of our numbers in the next Parliament, as compared with the aggregate number of Liberal members, will be greater, rather than smaller, than it has been, and that the spirit by which it will be animated will be less indulgent to the administration than before. At any rate, we must act upon the maxim, "Measures not men," and must claim that those who lag behind us, shall, as they have constantly called upon us to do, pay some due regard to the unity, energy, and progress of the Liberal party taken as a whole.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The following circular has just been issued by the Executive Committee of the Liberation Society:—

"Since the issue of the committee's circular urging the importance of early preparation for the next General Election, it has suddenly been announced that Parliament is to be dissolved. There is, therefore, necessity now for instant action, and decision and energy must be relied upon as the only means of rendering that action effective.

"In what spirit should the friends of religious equality enter on the conflict now before them? and what should be their guiding principle in determining the course which they will pursue in their several localities?

"The address of the Prime Minister to his constituents is the latest incident calculated to assist them in replying to such inquiries. That address deals with numerous topics, and, no doubt, holds out strong inducements to Liberal electors to renew their support of the Government. But, so far as the principle of religious equality is concerned, it is either vague or altogether silent. It furnishes no guarantee that the University question, or the endowed schools question, will be so dealt with as to ensure the adoption of a thoroughly unsectarian policy. It ignores the Burials question. It expressly asserts that "no main provisions" of the Education Act of 1870 "can advantageously be reconsidered without the aid of an experience such as we have not acquired," and no opinion is expressed as to the points, the consideration of which, it is admitted, must not be delayed.

"The Executive Committee are by no means of opinion that on these grounds, their friends should,

in any case, pursue a course, which might seem to be either factious or unpatriotic; but it is their deliberate conviction that, in the circumstances in which the nation is now appealed to, there is nothing to induce the Society's supporters to refrain from pressing their views on candidates, or in particular cases from withholding their support from those whose professions or pledges they may deem unsatisfactory. How much, or how little, should be insisted upon, may be left for decision in each constituency, and should be dependent on the local strength of those by whom the demands are made.

"A resolute attitude on the part of the friends of religious equality would, in all probability, lead to the election of a House of Commons which would not merely meet their requirements, but also strengthen the Government in endeavouring to carry its financial and other measures. On the other hand, if everything else is to be waived for the sake of such measures, temporary success may be purchased at the cost of future irritation and disappointment.

"The committee forward you some information and practical hints as to the specific subjects on which the opinions of candidates should be elicited, and will be glad to furnish the votes of members on ecclesiastical questions during the existence of the late Parliament. They will also supply—to the extent that time will permit—publications suitable for distribution during the election, as well as render such other assistance as it may be in their power to give."

THE NONCONFORMISTS AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

An important conference of the Nonconformist Committees of London, Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool, was held yesterday (Tuesday) at Crewe, under the presidency of Wm. Middlemore, Esq., J.P., of Birmingham. There was a large attendance of gentlemen, and the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

"I. That this conference having carefully considered the address of Mr. Gladstone to the electors of Greenwich, is constrained to express its deep dissatisfaction and disappointment at discovering that Mr. Gladstone adheres to the general principles of the educational policy pursued by the Government during the past four years, a policy which violates the principles of religious equality, and is hostile to the interest of national education."

"II. That this conference deeply regrets that Mr. Gladstone appears to be insensible to the evils incident to entrusting large grants of public money to the administration of sectarian committees irresponsible to the community, and to the flagrant injustice of extending and consolidating an educational system under which Nonconformists in large districts of the country are compelled to send their children to schools under the government of the clergy, especially at a time when the sacerdotal pretensions of a large section of the Established Church are provoking the utmost distrust, hostility, and indignation."

"III. That it is the immediate duty of all who desire to restore union and vigour to the Liberal party to insist that all candidates for their support should declare themselves opposed to the further development of the denominational system of education, and that such candidates should therefore be asked specifically to pledge themselves to vote—

"(1) For the abolition of the 25th Clause of the Elementary Education Act of 1870. (2) For refusing Parliamentary grants to new denominational schools; and that it be further recommended that candidates should be urged to support such amendments of the Act as shall secure the extension of the school board system to all parts of the kingdom, and the establishment of at least one school board school within a reasonable distance of the house of every child in the country."

"IV. That this conference recommends that Nonconformists should give no aid to candidates who decline to accept the foregoing pledges, inasmuch as the temporary triumph of the Liberal party would be dearly bought by infidelity to Liberal principles."

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

The pressure upon our columns this week, owing to the general election, precludes the possibility of our giving any extended notices of the numerous Liberation meetings that have been held during the last few days. The *Ashton-under-Lyne News* reports a large and enthusiastic meeting held there on Tuesday last, Mr. Hugh Mason in the chair, who made a vigorous speech. Afterwards the meeting was addressed by the Rev. G. Reaney, Mr. Carter, M.P., the Rev. H. T. Marshall, and Mr. N. B. Sutcliffe. The same journal reports a lecture at Higher Openshaw, on the "Bulwark of Protestantism," by Mr. Shaftow Massey. On Tuesday night, also, Mr. J. Carvell Williams lectured in the Temperance Hall, Sheffield, on "Voluntaryism in America and Canada," the Rev. David Loxton presiding. The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Rev. Giles Heater and Mr. Thomas Nicholson. On Wednesday the Rev. Charles Williams lectured at Thurleston to a good and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Williams has

also lectured at Dawley and Wellington. On Jan. 22 the Rev. Marmaduke Miller lectured at Darlington, Mr. A. Pease, the mayor, in the chair. The meeting was also addressed by the Rev. H. Kendall and Mr. John Andrew. On the 21st a conference was held at Middlesborough, Mr. Miller in the chair, at which addresses were delivered by Mr. Miller, Mr. John Andrew, the Rev. W. H. Prater, and others. On the same evening Mr. Miller lectured in the Cleveland Hall on the recent address of the Archbishop of York. The Mayor of Middlesborough, Mr. E. Williams, occupied the chair. On the 23rd Mr. Miller lectured at Thirsk. Mr. George Kearley lectured at Swaffham, Norfolk, on the 23rd, to a crowded and enthusiastic meeting; Mr. Chamberlain, a Wesleyan, took the chair; and the meeting was also addressed by the Rev. J. Sculphir (Primitive Methodist), the Rev. J. Bonham (Wesleyan), the Rev. J. C. Wyard (Baptist), and Mr. R. Vynne. Mr. Kearley also lectured on the 14th at Downton, Wilts, where the Rev. J. T. Collier presided. This week Mr. Kearley lectures at Theberton, and Framlingham.

CHURCH AND STATE ON THE CONTINENT.

It is announced from Berlin that Prince Bismarck has, on the part of the Crown, formally submitted to the Federal Council the draught of a bill legalising compulsory measures against such bishops as may be deposed but refuse to vacate their sees. After obtaining the approval of the Federal Council the bill will be laid before Parliament.

Archbishop Ledochowski has been again summoned, for February 24th, before the Tribunal of Posen, for having, in contravention of the law, appointed two ecclesiastics.

By the decisive majority of 284 against 95 votes the Prussian Chamber of Deputies has finally adopted the Civil Marriage Bill. The minority consisted of the clerical and Polish deputies.

The following letter has been addressed by the Emperor of Germany to the Old Catholic Bishop, Dr. Reinkens:—

Right Reverend Sir,—I thank you for the hearty congratulations which you have offered to me on the occasion of the renewing of the year. May God's blessing advance the work begun in His name, also in the new year! May continually widening circles be penetrated by the unquestionably right conviction, shared by you, that in my States respect for the law is reconcilable with the exercise of the religion of every community which pursues no worldly purposes, but only the one purpose—to seek man's peace with God.

Berlin, Jan. 17, 1874.
To the Catholic Bishop Herr Dr. Joseph Hubert Reinkens, at Bonn.

WILLIAM.

The religious measures announced as having been brought forward by the Austrian Government in the House of Deputies are four in number. The first, in laying down new provisions for the external relations of the Catholic Church, abolishes the last vestiges of the Concordat, which has hitherto remained partially in force. It furthermore, in regulating the position of clerical functionaries, subjects the appointment of priests to the sanction of Government, and reserves to the latter the right, under certain conditions, of demanding their dismissal. It goes on to prescribe the limits of spiritual authority exercised by priests. It lays down rules for the education and training of candidates for the priesthood. It modifies the rights of ecclesiastical bodies, the right of patronage, the rights of congregations; it provides for the proper appropriation of endowments, reserving to the State the supreme control. The second measure deals exclusively with monastic orders. It places in the hands of Government the right to permit or prohibit the erection of convents and monasteries, and leaves members free to quit them at their own choice, by simply making a declaration to the purpose before a civil magistrate. The third bill provides for the taxation of clerical endowments, imposing upon them a progressive tax of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12½ per cent., the proceeds to be appropriated to the assistance of the lower clergy, who are insufficiently paid. The fourth bill relates to the recognition of separate religious bodies, facilitating the establishment of such, and in so far benefiting the Old Catholic community, though by no means to the extent desired by its members. The bill legalising civil marriage is not yet complete, or has not at any rate obtained the Emperor's sanction. Its provisions are therefore still unknown to the public.

In answer to the protest which he addressed to the Federal Council respecting the abolition of the Nunciature in Switzerland, the Papal Nuncio at Berne has received his passports.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes some interesting details of the Ultramontane struggle in the Canton of Berne. Beaten successively in Geneva, Basle, and St. Gall, the Swiss Ultramontanes have made their special battle-field in the Canton of Berne, where their efforts have so far succeeded as to produce a state of intestine trouble bordering on civil war. The struggle commenced by Bishop Lachaud in 1872, ended in his defeat. But he has found refuge in Lucerne (which, with Zug, still officially acknowledges him), and his priests in the Jura took his part so warmly as to bring themselves into direct collision with the Cantonal Government which had expelled him. Following due process of law, the authorities proceeded, after due notice, against the recalcitrant pastors, turned them out of their cures, and consolidated these into less than half their number in order to provide parish priests for them out of either Liberal or Old Catholic

clergy—for these two names are not yet quite synonymous in Switzerland—who would acknowledge the right of the State to make or confirm their nominations. At first the extruded Ultramontanes confined themselves to opposing the new incumbents by opening special services of their own in other buildings, and putting their ban on all who attended the parish churches. This, however, was met by the cantonal decree which made it illegal to attend their services unless held privately and in a private house. Such severity made it easy for the Ultramontane clergy to raise the ever-popular cry of persecution; and threats and assaults by their followers on the Government curés followed as matter of course. On the other hand, the Liberal Catholics of the Jura are by no means a nonentity, and by a few days ago a largely attended meeting of their representative men at Tavannes voted an address to the citizens of Old Berne, calling on them for their assistance in the struggle against Ultramontane domination and especially urging them through their deputies to support the cantonal authorities in completing the work of reorganising the Catholic Church in the Jura on the new principles already adopted in Geneva. This address evoked a warm reply of sympathy from the deputies chiefly appealed to, and 50,000 copies of the two documents have been printed at Berne for gratuitous distribution, in pamphlet form. Meanwhile, as serious assaults had been made in more than one place on the supporters of the Government, and much incendiary language used, the Central Executive took on itself to call out and despatch into the Jura a battalion of riflemen, which is now in the centre of the district, under Captain Steller, ready to suppress any open disorder by force. And the Grand Council, or legislature of the canton, being specially summoned, passed a vote on the 14th, giving its executive the full powers, military and financial, demanded, by 143 votes against 7, six deputies only not taking part with either side.

The Ultramontane party has succeeded in stirring up riots on a small scale in several of the Jura parishes against the new incumbents, and, in one case, at Duplin, has caused an assault on the Liberal curé, for which outrage the Government is instituting proceedings against the perpetrators. But the most decided blow struck by the executive council, in reply to the disturbers of the peace in the Jura, is the resolution to shut up the famous convent of Porrentruy in that district. This was determined on for similar reasons after the war of the Sonderbund, when, as now, it became the centre of local Ultramontane intrigue against the Republic; but a delay being allowed to wind up its affairs, the crisis of the politico-religious struggle passed by and it was spared. The recent conduct of the Ursulines, who have taught their school-children to abuse the Government incumbent, and ostentatiously opened their chapel for the public use of his Ultramontane rival in defiance of the cantonal ordinance, seems to have determined the Berne Government to do away with this hostile institution. A notice has therefore been served on the superior that the suspended law would be positively enforced against her establishment. The inmates are allowed three months' grace to wind up their affairs, but are significantly warned that the Government reserves the examination of the debated question whether the Ursuline order is really under Jesuit direction, in which case they will be liable to expulsion from the canton under the existing constitution of Switzerland.

A telegram from Posen says that exhortations to hold out to the death have been received by the Archbishop of Posen from members of the English aristocracy, including the Duke of Norfolk and several ladies.

The bills supplementary to Prince Bismarck's Church Laws of May last have been at length presented to the Prussian Diet, and contain some remarkable provisions. The first bill deals with vacancies in bishoprics, while the second provides for the administration of the revenues of parishes which are without incumbents. The first four sections of the first bill provide that any one exercising episcopal functions in a bishopric vacated by the ecclesiastical court or otherwise shall notify the Ober-Präsident of the province, declaring himself ready to take the prescribed oath to the King, and stating his qualifications. The State officer may raise objections before the ecclesiastical court, just as under the laws of May last in the case of clergymen nominated to vacant parishes. Any one exercising episcopal functions in disregard of these provisions is liable to imprisonment for periods of from six months to two years. The fifth section imposes penalties on clergymen obeying orders of bishops suspended by the ecclesiastical court, the penalties varying from a hundred thalers to two years' imprisonment. The sixth section empowers the Ober-Präsident on occasion of the removal of a bishop by the court to summon the chapter to appoint an administrator of the episcopal revenues. If no election is made, the Minister of Cultus takes charge of the property of the diocese, appointing a commissary, and is empowered to stop the State pay of the members of the chapter refusing to elect an administrator. The fourteenth and fifteenth sections provide for the exercise of episcopal functions in appointing to vacant parishes. The persons having the rights of patron in connection with the parish are empowered to fill the vacancy occasioned by deposition of the priest, and, on their failing to do so, any six members of the congregation may call on the Landrath to assemble the parish for the purpose of electing a priest, and the

person elected becomes parish priest on complying with the legal prescriptions. These provisions are to apply to dioceses actually vacated before their passing. It thus appears that, though machinery is provided for the appointment of parish priests, no such machinery is provided for the appointment of bishops in sees vacated by the operation of law. Episcopal functions, as far as the appointments to parishes are concerned, are simply transferred in the final resort to the congregations.

THE CONFESSIONAL.

A numerously-attended meeting was held on Tuesday night, in the Vestry Hall, Chelsea, "to protest against the introduction of auricular confession into the Church of England." The chair was taken by Captain the Hon. F. Maude, R.N. Mr. J. M. Holt, M.P., moved the first resolution:—

That, believing the doctrine of auricular confession to be contrary to Scripture, and fraught with mischief to individual liberty, as well as dangerous to the well-being of the State, this meeting condemns the introduction of it into the Church of England.

Mr. James Bateman, F.R.S., in seconding the resolution, said that some years ago, when the confessional revival movement was first commenced, a meeting similar to the present was held. Next morning, the *Times* had a most able leading article in which it was said, "that if ever the time should come when any large number of the Church clergy practised confession in the Church of England, there would be such a storm in the country as had never been witnessed since the days of the Stuarts." That time had now come, for there was a large number of Ritualistic priests confessing their wives and daughters, and the tempest of public indignation, predicted by the *Times*, was just now rising. The Rev. E. W. Weldon, M.A., supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously. The Rev. G. Jelf, M.A., moved the second resolution:—

That, having in view the published statements and the admitted practice relative to auricular confession by certain clergymen of the Church of England, this meeting protests against such conduct, as an unauthorised innovation, and a violation of the formularies and the rubrics of the Church of England.

Sir Sibbald David Scott seconded this resolution. He did so, he said, as a layman, and he thought it was the duty of the laity to put the confessional down by united action. Mr. George Cruikshank supported the resolution, which was also carried. Mr. James Robinson Wright moved the adoption of a strong memorial to the Bishop of London urging "the necessity which exists for immediate and effective action on the part of the chief pastors of the Church, in order that the principles of the Reformation may be faithfully maintained, and that the doctrine of sacramental confession may meet with your lordship's energetic opposition and authoritative condemnation." This was adopted.

A large meeting was also held, on Tuesday night, at the Kingston National Schools, to oppose the introduction of confession into the Church of England. The Rev. A. Williams, vicar of Kingston, presided. The speakers were Sir Thomas Chambers, M.P., the Rev. E. Garbett, of Surbiton, and the Rev. J. Bardsley, of Stepney. Sir Thomas Chambers moved, and Mr. Bardsley seconded, the following resolution, which was carried:—

That an address, signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, be presented to Her Majesty, through the Home Secretary, respectfully praying her to commend to the Legislature the adoption of such measures as may effectually check the efforts of those who are seeking to introduce the confessional into the Reformed Church of England; and that a copy of the same be forwarded to the Bishop of Winchester and the members of Parliament for Mid-Surrey.

A large and influential meeting was held on Wednesday evening in the County Hall, Aylesbury, Sir Harry Verney, M.P., in the chair, for the purpose of protesting against the introduction of auricular confession into the Church of England. The chairman, in opening the meeting, strongly condemned the efforts of a large body of clergymen who were endeavouring to effect this innovation, and expressed his abhorrence of the confessional. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. J. S. Massingham, the Rev. Canon Fremantle, Major Hewett, &c., who all strongly condemned its introduction, and it was suggested that the clergymen who advocated it should go over to their proper place—the Church of Rome. The meeting unanimously resolved to petition Her Majesty with a view to legislation on the subject.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has summoned a meeting of the clergy and laity of his diocese to meet at Lambeth Palace on February 3rd, to discuss the following questions:—1. The best means of strengthening the hold of the Church upon the middle classes of society. 2. The most effectual means of checking intemperance, with especial reference to the Church of England Temperance Association. 3. Facilities of Worship Bill (Mr. Salt's). 4. Parochial Councils Bill (Lord Sandon's). 5. The best means of influencing for good young people who have left school, especially in agricultural parishes.

ARCHDEACON DENISON has been elected president of the Weston-super-Mare Branch of the English Church Union for the ensuing year. The attendance at the annual meeting was limited to thirty-five persons; but the archdeacon, in accepting office, said he was in no way discouraged at it.

REFUSAL OF THE BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH TO CONSECRATE A CHURCH.—The Bishop of St. Asaph has refused to consecrate a new church at Denbigh, which was to have been opened next week. His lordship's reason is that the reredos has a

tendency towards Ritualism, there being amongst the altar carving a figure of the Saviour hanging on a cross, and a group of figures prostrate before him. Until this is removed, his lordship will not allow the church to be opened.

A MINISTER SUED FOR SCHOOL-RATE.—Rev. Dr. Marshall, United Presbyterian minister of Coupar-Angus, who had refused to pay the school-rate on conscientious grounds, has been sued by the inspector of poor in the Small Debt Court, Forfar, for the sum of 7s. 6d., the amount of his assessment. The doctor conducted his own case, and in his statement said that he had refused to pay the rate because he had not been told in what manner it was to be applied. He declared that he was a Voluntary, and held the opinion that taxation for religious purposes was unlawful, and therefore sinful. Sheriff Robertson decided against him, remarking that both under the Poor Law Act and the Education Act his duty was simply ministerial. He had nothing to do with the individual conscience. He therefore gave decree for the sum claimed.

WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR IRELAND.—This is forcibly put in a *Times* article thus:—"At this moment the general body of British taxpayers are lavishing immense sums annually in maintaining and spreading, not only the Roman Catholic doctrines of a former age, but also the new tests of orthodoxy, and the new objects of Divine worship lately invented by our ingenious neighbours across the British Channel. Shocking as the pretended revelations of Mary Alacque must be to all simple Christians, the whole British people are now instilling them into the minds of the rising Irish generation by means of State-paid schools abandoned to the absolute control of the priesthood, and we are told, now in a way not to be mistaken, by archbishops and bishops, that unless we do this, and more also, we may expect to find Ireland a difficulty, if not a foe, in any question of national safety or honour."

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NONCONFORMIST ASSOCIATION.—A large and influential conference of the Nottinghamshire Nonconformist Association was held on Thursday night at Nottingham. Delegates were present from various parts of the country. Mr. Edward Gripper presided. A paper was read by the Rev. Frederick S. Williams on the work of the association, and a resolution of cordial approval was adopted with enthusiasm. The following resolution was also unanimously passed, and the strongest determination was expressed to give it practical effect:—"That, while this conference hails with satisfaction the accession of Mr. John Bright to the Cabinet, it is of opinion that the Liberal party cannot be reunited until the Government consents by distinct legislative enactment to retrace the retrogressive and reactionary policy on the subject of national education, which for three years it has pursued. And this conference believes that unless such concessions are made before a general election takes place, it will be impossible to unite in any efforts for keeping the present Government in power, and that the result must be disastrous to Liberal principles and to the Liberal party."

EARL RUSSELL ON THE POPE'S CLAIMS.—Earl Russell has addressed the following letter to Sir John Murray:—"Pembroke Lodge, Richmond-park, Jan. 19, 1874.—Dear Sir John Murray,—I have already informed you of the cause which will prevent me from presiding at the meeting of the 27th of January. Let us now consider what is the object of the meeting. Archbishop Manning states his doctrine very clearly and very boldly thus:—'The Church is separate and supreme. Let us, then, ascertain somewhat further what is the meaning of supreme. Any power which is independent, and can alone fix the limit of its own jurisdiction, and can thereby fix the limits of all other jurisdictions, is, *ipso facto*, supreme. But the Church of Jesus Christ, within the sphere of revelation of faith and morals, is all this, or is nothing, or worse than nothing, an imposture and an usurpation—that is, it is Christ or Antichrist.' Archbishop Manning goes on to say, 'If it be Antichrist, every Caesar, from Nero to this day, is justified.' So we may say, on the other side, if the Church of Rome be Christ, every Pope, from Rodrigo Borgia to this day, is justified, and must be accounted Christ. For my own part, many years of my career in Parliament were devoted to the promotion of religious liberty. From 1813 to 1829, I constantly voted for the admission of Roman Catholics to Parliament and to office. In 1828, I took the foremost part in relieving Protestant Dissenters from the disabilities of the Corporation and Test Acts. For many years afterwards I laboured for the liberation of the Jews. But neither for Roman Catholics, for Protestant Dissenters, nor for Jews, did I ask for more than equal privileges and equal laws. Archbishop Manning says of the Church, 'If it be Christ, it is the supreme power among men; that is to say:—1. It holds its commission and authority from God; 2. It holds in custody the faith and the law of Jesus Christ; 3. It is the sole interpretation of that faith, and the sole expositor of that law; it has within the sphere of that commission a power to legislate with authority—to bind the consciences of all men born again in the baptism of Jesus Christ.' This is not liberty, civil or religious. It is to bow the knee to a despotic and fallible priesthood. The very same principles which bound me to ask for equal freedom for the Roman Catholic, the Protestant Dissenter, and the Jew, bind me to protest against a conspiracy which aims at confining the German Empire in chains never, it is hoped, to be shaken off. I hasten to declare, with all friends of freedom, and, I trust, with the great majority of

the English nation, that I could no longer call myself a lover of civil and religious liberty were I not to proclaim my sympathy with the Emperor of Germany in the noble struggle in which he is engaged. We have nothing to do with the details of the German laws: they may be just; they may be harsh; we can only leave it to the German people to decide for themselves, as we have decided for ourselves. At all events, we are able to see that the cause of the German Emperor is the cause of liberty, and the cause of the Pope is the cause of slavery.—I remain, dear Sir John Murray, yours very truly, RUSSELL."

Religious and Denominational News.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. DR. ALLON.

On Saturday evening last the prayer-meeting at Union Chapel, Islington, was largely attended, it being known that at its conclusion a presentation was to be made to the Rev. Dr. Allon. The rev. gentleman entered the room during the singing of the last hymn, and Mr. Henry Spicer having taken the chair,

Mr. John Glover said that many members of the congregation thought that the completion of Dr. Allon's thirtieth year of the pastorate of that chapel should not be allowed to pass without some special notice being taken of it. A meeting of a few members of the church was accordingly held to confer upon the subject. As it was determined that something should be done, and in one week, we thought it would be very grateful to Dr. Allon's feelings to find that it had been done during his absence, and we also thought that it would be grateful to him that it should be the expression of the sentiments not of a few members of the congregation, but of as many as possible. We did not ask any one for anything, and we acted on that sound Scriptural precept, "Let not your left hand know what your right hand doeth." We gave an intimation that those who would like to do anything should do so, and I am glad to report that we received subscriptions from 230 persons. If you consider how many heads of families are amongst that number, you will think with me that there is scarcely one member of the congregation who is not represented here. We have received the smallest contributions, one of the smallest being 1s., and another 5s. from a poor member and another sent a beautiful letter with two guineas in it, and an expression of regret that it was not larger. We do not intend to give any list of contributors. The presentation is the expression to Dr. Allon of our deep and heartfelt love for him. I am sure it could not have been done in a week if Dr. Allon did not hold a deep place in the hearts of his people. And it is not only an expression of love, but also a measure of our appreciation of his pastoral ministry. I believe that hundreds of lives have been improved and regenerated by Dr. Allon's pastorate. And we hope for future favours; that future years will be as the past years; and that there may grow up in this district a character of manhood and womanhood which shall be a blessing to the nation, and I know of no minister who seeks more the improvement of the characters of those to whom he ministers.

Mr. Willans said he wished it were possible to present a testimonial in a less objectionable form, but he sincerely rejoiced in having had a hand in that meeting. He was sure Dr. Allon would forgive them for giving him a purse, and that the gift would be enhanced by the fact that no one will be committed by the form of it. He would now read the address:—

"To the Rev. H. Allon, D.D.:—

"Rev. and Dear Sir,—The church and congregation meeting in Union Chapel, Islington, desire to congratulate you on the completion of the thirtieth year of your ministry amongst them, and to express their high appreciation of your services as their pastor, and to assure you of their continued personal esteem and affection. They congratulate you further on the unimpaired prosperity of the church, and the multifarious agencies which now exist, some of which have been originated, and all of which have been expanded, through your pastorate, and they desire to record their conviction that the peace and harmony which now prevail in the church and schools have been largely due, under God's blessing, to your sound judgment and prudent oversight. They trust that your future labours, as they will be the most mature, may also be the most spiritually blessed, and that it may please an All-wise Providence long to continue unimpaired the cordial relations which exist between yourself and those who to-day testify in a practical form their hearty recognition of your services.—Signed on behalf of the congregation.

"HY. SPICER.
THOS. BAMFORD.
J. DUTHOIT.
W. H. WILLANS.
J. GLOVER.
JAS. TIDMARSH.
W. A. B. WILLIAMS."

Mr. Bamford made a few remarks which were not very audible, and was followed by Mr. Henry Spicer, who said he had been a member of the congregation for forty years, and a constant attendant, and he had observed with much satisfaction and gratitude the way in which their pastor had gone in and out amongst them, and how their numbers

had increased from six or seven hundred attendants and three or four hundred members, to double those numbers.

Dr. Mullens, Dr. Glover, and Messrs. Harris, Poulton, and Duthoit also spoke in complimentary terms of Dr. Allon, after which the Chairman said:—"Dr. Allon, I have been commissioned to present to you this testimonial, and I feel it a great honour that I have been selected to do so. I am a deacon of this church, and I was a deacon before you became the pastor. Since then our respect and esteem for you have deepened, and this testimonial is given you as a slight testimony of our respect." The chairman then handed to Dr. Allon a purse which it was announced contained 1,206l. 16s.

Dr. Allon said: Dear Christian friends, you will easily understand the embarrassment I feel on this occasion, as it has taken me entirely by surprise. Having been from home all the week and only just returned, I had not intended being present here to-night, and it is only by command of my better-half that I have come here. I was told that it was most important that I should come, and that if I could not walk I should be carried. (Laughter.) Up to this moment I did not know what was going on, and I had no conception of what was going to be done. What can I say for your great kindness! Perhaps the simplest words mean the most. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I feel that "the lines have fallen to me in very pleasant places," and that is the feeling that I have had all through my pastorate. I looked forward to what was a kind of double anniversary at the close of the year, for it was not only the thirtieth year of my pastorate, but the seventieth year of the church's existence. I felt that it could not pass without some remark. I did not say much about it, but I thought it was an opportunity of looking back at the history of our church. Our dear friend Mr. Bamforth has taken my thoughts back to the time when I first came here. I had not seen Union Chapel before. I do not remember the delinquency which has been spoken of. I remember coming from Shoreditch, and was inquiring the way to Union Chapel of Mr. Niel, who walked here with me. I think I was in time! (Laughter.) I remember the morning I first came here, and what a pleasant place it seemed. I remember the sermon, and how I trembled when I got into the pulpit, and the conversation with Mr. Lewis the next morning. He walked with me, and asked me to become his co-pastor, and to supply his church during his holidays, and as I was a student at college then, and not very flush of money I agreed to his proposal to supply during his absence. I received two letters a week from him, urging me to become his co-pastor. It ended in a compromise that I was to come and preach on Sundays, but stay at college until December. In December Dr. Harris, my tutor, broke down in health, and I then left college, and in January, 1844, I became co-pastor with Mr. Lewis, and I have been glad that I was chosen unanimously, and that there was no expression uttered against it. I had entertained no idea of becoming pastor of such a church as this. My father had dissuaded me from entering the ministry at all, and the utmost I looked forward to was a country church with a salary of perhaps 150l. a year. But after I was appointed I worked very hard and very conscientiously, and I remember that the first Sunday of my pastorate eleven young persons joined the church, but this and other things were but the results of my predecessor's labours. I have not completed these thirty years without thinking of the past and what I have done in the past, and it is with very unaffected humility that I say that nothing astonishes me more than that such results should have come from my imperfect services. I feel that I owe very much to the assistance of my three deacons who were in office when I came and are so now. We have not always agreed on every matter, but nothing has ever occurred to affect our respect and regard for one another. When we look back at what has been done in the past, we often find that there has been more done than we knew of at the time. There are times of lassitude and depression, and many a time I have thought that it would have been better for the church and for me that I made a change, but I have never been able to do it, and it would have required a stronger expression of your feeling to induce me to change. In the first two years of my co-pastorate I had thirteen offers of other pastorates, but I had a kind of feeling that I was in my right place, and that I dared not leave the sphere in which God had placed me. And if I had had to choose my own church, I think that no minister could have chosen a better church than this. I may speak of the work which I have done here. I hope I have preached Christ. I am most anxious about that—that Christ should be the centre of my preaching, and if I have been faithful to remember His great love to men, for that I am thankful above all things. I have tried to link the life of Christ to that of the individual. I felt that the duty of a minister was to speak directly to the lives of men and I have tried to do this. I do not think there is a minister in London who has prayed more earnestly to be able to speak directly to the hearts of men. I don't think the soul is saved unless the life be changed; and the preaching that is to save the soul must change the life. I have tried to develop what I think are the two great things in church life—sentiment in worship and energy in work. These I think have been developed here, and I have never been more convinced of this than in our week of prayer. It is now not possible to break the bond which unites

us together. I thank God for your great love which has always been expressed, and I shall end my days and die where I have lived. May God bless you, and make me more worthy of your great kindness." Dr. Allon then offered prayer and pronounced the benediction, and the meeting separated.

Mr. J. Horatio Johns, of the Lancashire Independent College, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Longton, Staffordshire, and will enter upon his pastoral duties on February 1.

THE PRESBYTERIANS IN LONDON will hold a week of special evangelistic services in their different churches during the month of February, and about a dozen ministers from Scotland and elsewhere are expected to take part in them.

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR IRELAND.—The Council of the Evangelical Alliance have issued a circular inviting the Christian public to set apart Tuesday, March 17th next, being St. Patrick's Day, for the offering of fervent prayer in families, congregations and united assemblies on behalf of Ireland.

LEICESTER.—SANVY-GATE MISSION.—The boys' schoolroom and three class-rooms in connection with the Sanny-gate Mission, a work undertaken by the Gallowtree-gate congregation in a destitute part of the town, were opened on Thursday evening last, when the Rev. A. Mackennal preached to a numerous congregation. The other buildings, viz., a mission hall and class-rooms, are being proceeded with, and it is hoped will be ready for use about July. The building, which will cost about 2,000l., is being erected at the cost of the Congregational Churches of the town; which, so soon as this is paid for, are ready to proceed with a new mission chapel in a part of the town where the Rev. S. T. Williams's church has begun to labour.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES.—A social meeting in connection with the Congregational Chapel was held in the schoolroom on Tuesday evening, January 20, to welcome the newly appointed minister, the Rev. J. Jackson Goadby. After tea the Rev. J. F. Stevenson, LL.B., of Reading, took the chair, and referred to his long and intimate knowledge of Mr. Goadby, speaking in high terms of his character as a man and his efficiency as a Christian minister. Addresses were also given by Messrs. Coates, Pither, and Mummery, who cordially welcomed the new minister on behalf of the church and congregation. Mr. Goadby spoke at the end of the meeting, and alluded in terms of admiration to his predecessor, the late Rev. James Rowland. Various pieces of vocal and instrumental music were given during the evening. The room was crowded and the proceedings were characterised throughout by the utmost unanimity and cordiality. Public recognition services, in connection with Mr. Goadby's settlement, will be held during the spring.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—THE CONFERENCE ON CHURCH FINANCE AND COUNTY UNIONS.—The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warwickshire Association on Monday, January 26. Moved by the Rev. G. B. Johnson, seconded by Mr. A. Keep—"That this meeting having considered the Report of the Non-ministerial Conference on Church Finance, recently held in Birmingham, expresses its very grateful appreciation of the time and thought which the members of that conference devoted to the questions submitted to it; its hearty concurrence in the judgment that our churches should raise ministerial incomes to a much higher standard than is reached at present, and in the judgment that this improvement would be best promoted by a freer and fuller use of the 'weekly offering.' But this meeting feels that by far the most important questions raised at the conference related to the reorganisation of the existing county associations, and that whether such reorganisation be effected by grouping richer and poorer counties together, or, as the conference seems to prefer, by the establishment of a national fund whose committee of management shall finally determine all questions connected with the distribution of the fund throughout our several counties, the changes proposed and involved are so grave that they cannot be adequately discussed in a conference from which ministerial representatives are excluded. That however desirable it may have been to discuss questions relating to ministerial incomes in a conference consisting exclusively of non-ministerial members, it hesitates to make a further appointment of delegates to consider the broader questions now raised in a conference so constituted, and trusts that at the annual meeting of the Congregational Union the constitution of the said conference will be so far expanded as to admit of due ministerial representation."

ABOLITION OF PAPA.—The London correspondent of a country paper says it is now *mauvais ton* for the children of the "upper ten" to say "papa" or "mamma." Babies will begin in this way, but a lady of rank would rather hear her children stammer out the German "mutter" than address her as "mamma." The little dears, and even the grown-up young ladies who had been born and bred under the former régime, have had a hard time of it before the habit could be broken, but the victory has been won, and now every English "mamma" of rank rejoices in the title of "mother," and is angry when even her little daughter of seven years old gives her any other appellation.

Correspondence.

RELIGIOUS EQUALITY AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The forthcoming number of your journal will, no doubt, contain an ample supply of matter calculated to guide your readers in determining what shall be their policy, and what the spirit of their electoral action, at the approaching general election; but, as the time for action of any kind is unprecedentedly short, I venture to call their attention to some details which, possibly, may not otherwise receive the notice they deserve.

It may, perhaps, be forgotten by some that the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are not yet in the fullest sense open to Nonconformists; a large number of college fellowships being at present open only to clergymen of the Establishment, and there being some other points in regard to which the principle of religious equality has still to be insisted upon. When the English University Test Abolition Bill was passed, the Government postponed further changes until after a royal commission had inquired into the revenues of the Universities. This has now been done, and Mr. Gladstone himself admits that there must be further legislation; but he has shown himself in past years so slow to concede the claims of Nonconformists in regard to the Universities that I do not think it ungenerous to suggest that the action of the Government may need to be watched in this matter. And, for that purpose, it is essential that Liberal candidates should be everywhere pledged to a support of the principle, that strict impartiality shall characterise the measures which the Legislature will be required to pass.

The Endowed Schools question is one which is in yet greater danger of being dealt with unsatisfactorily in the approaching session. Last session it was necessary to bring in a bill to renew the Endowed Schools Act, but before doing so, the Government had the Act referred to a select committee. That committee took some important evidence as to the alleged grievances of both Episcopals and Nonconformists in regard to the composition and proceedings of the Commission; but, unfortunately, two of the Liberal members of the committee, Sir T. Acland, member for North Devon, and Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, member for Hastings, voted with the Tories. The result was a report which suggested a redress of some of the alleged grievances of the Churchmen, but did nothing for the Nonconformist! And Mr. Forster had the weakness to accept the report so forced upon him, and to bring in a bill in harmony with its suggestions. The Act is, therefore, less favourable to Nonconformists now than it formerly was. Nor is that all. The renewing bill was allowed to pass the House of Lords only on the condition that the renewal should be for one year. This year, therefore, the struggle will be renewed. The House of Lords will amend the Government Bill in a sense favourable to the Establishment and adverse to Dissenters; and, unless Mr. Forster becomes by that time a changed man, he will urge the House of Commons to accept the amendments, to save the bill! This being the case, Liberal candidates should not be left in the dark on this question, nor be allowed to suppose that they may safely follow the lead of the Government. On the contrary, they should be made to understand that, while Nonconformists feel aggrieved at the working of the Education Act, they are almost equally dissatisfied with the action of the Endowed Schools Commissioners, and with that of the Government also in connection with the Commission.

I need not, I am sure, urge upon Nonconformist electors in small towns and country parishes the propriety of insisting, in every case, as one of the conditions on which their votes will be given to Liberal candidates, that the Burials Bill shall have, not an occasional vote only, but steady and hearty support. I, however, fear that the Liberals of the large towns are not as anxious for the passing of such a bill as Mr. Osborne Morgan's as they should be; just because, having public cemeteries, they do not suffer as their rural brethren do. That, however, is but a selfish reason. The strong should help the weak in this case. The town Nonconformist should feel quite as strongly as the country Nonconformist that the existing system is an unchristian system, which often leads to the most painful and discreditable results. I hope, too, that Scottish Liberals will show a large-minded sympathy with English Nonconformists in this matter, and desire that their own freedom should be enjoyed by others. If it be objected that Mr. Morgan's bill has been so cut down as not now to be worth fighting for, I reply, first, that the State-Church party does not think the measure an insignificant one, and, second, that the best way of strengthening Mr. Morgan's hands in bringing in, and standing by, a more decisive measure, will be to send to Parliament a Liberal majority every man of which is deeply pledged to do justice in dealing with the question.

I hope that the Nonconformists of Wales thoroughly appreciate the great opportunity now before them. They are in almost, if not in every, constituency masters of the situation. They have always said, "Give us the ballot, and you shall see us fight battles we have never fought before." Well! they now have the ballot, and

what will they do with it? Will they drive away every Tory—the great “Sir Watkin” included? That would be a great feat; but its greatness would have to be measured by the quality of the men sent in their places. If they return local magnates, simply because they are Welshmen and landlords, and irrespective of their willingness to support Disestablishment, we shall have but little reason, as Nonconformists, to give thanks to our brethren in the Principality. What they ought to do is to return a compact host of Disestablishers, if not Nonconformists, and if they cannot find them in Wales they should be glad to have them from England.

A special word needs to be said about the representation of the metropolitan constituencies. I hope that in Finsbury votes will be withheld from Mr. Torrens, who has voted dead against the friends of religious equality in the last Parliament. So have both Mr. Ayrton and Mr. Samuda; though the former has the excuse of being a member of the Government. Will not the Dissenters of the Tower Hamlets support Captain Maxse, who will vote straight with them on their questions? Will any disestablishment man in Marylebone give a vote to Mr. Hughes, who not only votes, but talks earnestly, against disestablishment? Both the Lambeth members have voted right; so have the representatives of Chelsea. One Hackney member, Mr. Reed, has gone for disestablishment; the other, Mr. Holms, is opposed to it. Mr. Dunn, one of the too many—Southwark Liberal candidates, has been for years a staunch Liberationist, and should replace the Tory Colonel Beresford. The City will lose one of its representatives, perhaps two, but as Baron Rothschild never gives Nonconformists a vote, they cannot be expected to shed tears at his defeat.

I have said nothing on the broad question of disestablishment; not because I underrate its importance, but because it will no doubt be dealt with by other pens. There is, however, one aspect of the question which, I think, should not be forgotten. There are constituencies in which it will be a duty to insist that Nonconformists shall be represented on this, as well as other subjects, by their Parliamentary representatives; while there are others in which, because they are numerically weak, they must be content with candidates of a less advanced type. In neither case, however, should the opportunity for educating the constituency be lost. It is not necessary to be silent on the subject because it is not made a test question. Why what a leverage does the rapid growth of Ritualism in the Establishment place in our hands in regard to this topic! There are many candidates, and thousands of electors, who are open to appeals based on the present state of the Church of England, who cannot be moved by abstract considerations. These should be put into a corner, as they easily can be, if they attempt to defend the Establishment by argument, and though their votes may not be won now, the process of conversion may be commenced, and then the votes will follow at a future day.

Let none of us be discouraged, or lose our presence of mind, although so many things which we had hoped to do at this election cannot be done, just because the Government, by the suddenness of their action, have deprived us of the time for doing them. Those who differ from us are at as great a disadvantage as ourselves, and their extremity may be our opportunity. Let us resolve that, whatever becomes of the Liberal party, or the Liberal Government, we will stand by our own principles, and by our men; and then, if I am not greatly mistaken, it will be seen that, so far as regards the cause of religious equality, the general election of 1874 will indicate, not retrogression, but a marked advance.

AN OLD CAMPAIGNER.

January 27, 1874.

NONCONFORMISTS AND THE COMING ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Mr. Gladstone's sudden appeal to the constituencies of the country has, it is to be feared, found the Nonconformist party, like the “foolish virgins,” unprepared for such an emergency; and it is but too likely that the cause of religious equality may, at the present critical juncture, receive serious injury owing to a lack of firmness and decision on the part of its professed supporters.

It seems to me, Sir, that the time has arrived when the Dissenters of the country should resolutely sever themselves from their alliance with the Whigs, and, refusing to accord them their support in consideration of minor measures of reform, should organise themselves into a distinct political party demanding nothing less than the immediate and entire separation of Church and State.

There can be no doubt, I think, that the Anti-State-Church party lose immensely through not knowing and not asserting their own strength. It is my conviction that if they would boldly assert their principles and their determination to maintain them above all inferior political considerations, they would, either immediately or within a very few years, carry with them a majority of the electors of the country, and thus render their principles triumphant. A minority of the Liberal party, but probably only a small one, would, of course, abandon us; but we should convert to our side not only many who are at present State-Church Liberals, but

also many Conservatives who hold anti-State-Church principles, but who have heretofore been accustomed, perhaps merely from circumstances of birth and education, to vote with the Conservative party.

Is it not, Sir, too much forgotten that in this great matter of the union of Church and State, Dissenters are often, in one respect at least, more guilty than Churchmen? Of the latter it is not, unhappily, too much to say that, in regard to the purity of the Church of Christ, “even their mind and conscience is defiled.” From their earliest years they are trained to think lightly of ecclesiastical corruptions to which Nonconformists would give sufferance “no not for an hour.” And just because Dissenters have on this great question more light, by so much the greater is their responsibility. And inasmuch as they are equally with Churchmen members of the State, they are, in that capacity, responsible for the maintenance of the State Church system, unless they do all they can to effect its abolition.

Do we believe, Sir, I would ask, that in politics, as in everything else, “one is our Master, even Christ,” and not Mr. Gladstone, or any other human leader however talented and eloquent? Do we sufficiently recognise the fact that the deep and manifold corruptions entailed upon a large section of the Church of Christ in this country by its alliances with, and subordination to the secular Government, is essentially, and has always been, a national sin, offensive to God, and for which He will certainly hereafter bring us into judgment?

It is by no means uncommon to hear the alliance in question spoken of as a mistake and an error, which will some day or other be rectified, but the abandonment of which we need be in no particular hurry to accomplish. It is far more important, it seems to be thought, to diminish taxation, to facilitate the transfer of land, to extend the country franchise, and to attend to other similar secular reforms. At all events, it is urged, “keep the Liberal party in office”; without stopping closely to inquire whether past experience does not prove that reforms, both ecclesiastical and civil, have often been much more effectively accomplished by ejecting them from office, and keeping them in opposition, till their reforming energies were re-invigorated and restored. If we pursue an unworthy and vacillating policy at the present election, there is, I think, little doubt that we shall ere long have abundant reason to regret our adoption of such a course. It seems sufficiently evident that Mr. Gladstone's Government will either obtain no majority at all; or that, if they obtain one, it will be of too feeble and worthless a character to effectively carry out contemplated reforms, or even much longer to maintain themselves in office.

In bringing these hastily written remarks to a conclusion, I would say that, having made up my own mind to support no Liberal candidate who will not vote for the separation of Church and State, I would venture respectfully to urge the adoption of a similar resolution on my brother Dissenters, in the full assurance that they will eventually find such a course to be both sound in principle and wise in policy.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

J. R. L.

Weston-super-Mare, January 19, 1874.

NONCONFORMISTS AND THE MAGISTRACY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The occurrence of a general election may help to bring out into high relief what many persons have felt to be an injustice and a grievance, and to ensure some redress. In his recent candidature for Huntingdon, Mr. Arthur Arnold found that Nonconformists were systematically excluded from the bench in that borough and county, notwithstanding their known qualifications. He brought the subject under the notice of the Premier and of the Lord Chancellor, and received from both evasive replies. In Surrey we have similar complaints to make, and the Committee of the Surrey Congregational Union wish to seize upon the present juncture in order to put an end at once, and for ever, to such social partiality. I should be glad to know from the secretaries of other county unions and associations whether the difficulty exists elsewhere, and to what extent, in order that proper action may be taken for its removal. If we are only true to ourselves and to our convictions, this is one of several matters on which we may dictate our own terms, in order to ensure that strict equality which is our absolute right.

Yours truly,

W. H. S. AUBREY.

Croydon, Jan. 26, 1874.

CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHWARK.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—As a life member of the London Missionary Society, it was with surprise, and with no little feeling of indignation, that I read this week in the *Nonconformist* the letter of “A Returned Missionary,” containing his strictures on the tower of the Rev. Newman Hall's new church. Is he aware, when he complains of the cost of the tower and spire, that there are to be class-rooms within the tower? Is he aware that there is hardly a church in the world which does more for the poor and the destitute and the intemperate, than Mr. Hall's Church? Is he aware that the “Lincoln” tower will be a monument of lasting friendship between

this country and the United States? When an American sees the Stars and Stripes upon the spire, far above the London smoke, he will know that there are millions of true-born Englishmen who heartily sympathise with our cousins in America. The sum spent upon the tower will be amply repaid if it will do anything to cement the kindly feeling between the two foremost nations upon earth. Professor Goldwin Smith tells us that at present there is a great antipathy to Britain in the minds of many educated Americans. He is a true patriot who tries by any means to remove this antipathy, and promote love and kindness between England and the United States; and no one has tried harder to do this than the Rev. Newman Hall.

Apart altogether from the fact that a tower and spire, if well proportioned, add immensely to the appearance of a building, is your correspondent aware that the noblest supporters and the largest givers to the missionary cause are in favour of towers and spires being added to our churches? Take as a single example—which might be multiplied a hundredfold—the late Sir Francis Crossley, Bart., who gave more than £20,000 to the London Missionary Society, and who erected, in conjunction with his brothers, the tower and spire of the Square Congregational Church, Halifax, which spire is one of the most beautiful and graceful in the country.

When “A Returned Missionary” lugs in the word “chapel” so unmercifully, and blames us for our Romish practices, is he aware that the word is Popish in its origin, Popish in its general meaning, and totally inappropriate as applied to a Protestant sanctuary for Divine worship?

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

J. A. CLAPHAM.

Bradford, January 24, 1874.

THE STATE CHURCH IN THE RURAL PARISHES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Grove's letter of last week I will give him an account of several villages in our neighbourhood. The village in which I reside has no church. I built a chapel in 1871 which will hold all the inhabitants, but although we have no church, we have to pay tithes to the rector of Leasingham. He owns the living of Roxholme as well. I pay him 240s. a year for tithes. The Marquis of Bristol also pays tithes, but the rector has not held a service in the parish since I have been here. I was at his house one day, and he said that he had heard I was going to build a chapel, and he told me that if I did it would make him very unfriendly; which it has done.

Leasingham is about a mile and a half from Roxholme, and has a chapel supplied by the Methodists. Ruskington, about two miles distant, has two chapels; Dorrington, another village about three miles from here, has two chapels. At Cranwell, about a mile and a half off, there is preaching in a cottage, and at Branswell, too, there is preaching every Sunday in a house. I think there is either preaching in a house or services held in a chapel at almost every village in this vicinity. The Wesleyans in the Sleaford district supply thirty villages every Sunday, besides what other denominations are doing. I lived at Rowell, in Northamptonshire, for thirty years, and there is a large Independent and Wesleyan chapel there. At Dunsborough, a village a mile and a half distant, there are three chapels of different denominations. There is not a chapel at Rushton, which is about two miles from Rowell, but services are held in a house. At Glendon, which is a small village, I never heard of a Church service being held. The Vicar of Rowell has the living, he has also the living of Orton, which is two miles distant, and they have service held in the church only twelve times in a year. There is an independent chapel at Loddington, a village about three miles from Rowell. At Harrington, which is about the same distance, there is no chapel, but a large proportion of the inhabitants are Dissenters, and come to Rowell for worship.

I have good reason to believe that the spiritual condition of the above districts, with which I am well acquainted, is a fair sample of our country generally. I think it would be a great blessing to the villages if the Church were disestablished, and I am sure their spiritual wants would be better supplied than they are now.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

J. M. COLE.

Roxholme Hall, Sleaford, January 26, 1874.

As might have been expected, the election petition against the return of Mr. Mills for Exeter had been allowed to drop, the counsel for the petitioners exonerating the hon. gentleman personally.

The will of the late Mr. Henry Selfe Page Winterbotham, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, was proved on the 12th inst. by Lindsey William Winterbotham and William Howard Winterbotham, the brothers of the deceased, the executors, the personality being sworn under 4000s. The testator gives all his real and personal estate to his said brothers, upon trust, for the benefit of his sister, Ellen Mary Woodon, and her issue. The will is all in the testator's own handwriting, and is dated Jan. 30, 1867.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. GLADSTONE'S ADDRESS.

At a Cabinet Council, held on Friday in Downing-street, the Ministers present being the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Aberdare, Viscount Halifax, the Right Hon. R. Lowe, Earl Granville, the Earl of Kimberley, the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, the Duke of Argyll, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, the Marquis of Hartington, the Right Hon. J. Bright, the Right Hon. C. Fortescue, the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, and the Right Hon. J. Stansfeld, it was decided to dissolve Parliament immediately, with the view to a general election. Mr. Gladstone has consequently issued the following address to his constituents at Greenwich:—

Gentlemen,—Her Majesty has been advised by her Ministers, and has graciously accepted the advice, to dissolve the present Parliament and immediately to summon a new one, for the transaction of the regular business of the year.

In that new Parliament I respectfully solicit the honour of representing you.

I am too well aware that in the choice of a person charged as I am with official duty, you forego for the public good many special claims which you would otherwise justly make on the time and attention of your representative. This sacrifice, so freely and honourably incurred five years ago, I once again presume to ask at your hands, under the circumstances and for the special purposes which I shall now proceed to describe.

Of the House of Commons, now about to be dissolved, no one will deny the remarkable amount of its labours, and of those legislative results which, but for untoward and chiefly recent circumstances, would have been greater still. I take upon me to affirm that those great labours have likewise been great services, and that they will give to the Parliament of 1868 a distinguished place in the annals of our country.

It is not to be wondered at if, after five years of anxious and varied effort, the strength both of the House of Commons and of the administration, for the concurrent discharge of their arduous duties, has been impaired.

The welfare of the country can never be effectually promoted by a Government which is not invested with adequate authority.

That authority, which was in 1868 amply confided by the nation to the Liberal party and its leaders, if it has now sunk below the point necessary for the due defence and prosecution of the public interests, can in no way be so legitimately and effectually restored as by an appeal to the people, who, by their reply to such an appeal, may place beyond all challenge two great questions—the first what they think of the manner in which the commission granted in 1868 had been executed; the second, what further commission they now think fit to give to their representatives, and to what hands its fulfilment and the administration of the government are to be entrusted.

I will not attempt to set out in full the causes which have convinced the Government that the time has now come for thus appealing to the country, but I will refer to such of them as embrace matters of fact rather than of opinion.

In the month of March last the Government were defeated in their effort to settle upon just and enlarged principles the long-disputed question of the higher education in Ireland, if not by a combined yet by a concurrent effort by the leader of the Opposition and of the Roman Catholic prelate of Ireland. Upon suffering this defeat, the Government, according to the practice of our constitution, placed their resignations in the hands of the Sovereign. Her Majesty, in the just and wise exercise of her high office, applied to the leader of the Opposition. He, however, declaring that he was not prepared with a policy, and could not govern in the existing Parliament, declined to fill the void which he had made. Under these circumstances we thought ourselves bound by loyalty to the Queen not to decline the resumption of our offices. But this step we took with an avowed reluctance. We felt that, in consequence of what had happened, both the Crown and country were placed at a disadvantage, as it was established that, during the existence of the present Parliament, one party only could govern, and must, therefore, govern without appeal. We also felt that a precedent had been set which both diminished our strength and weakened the general guarantees for the responsibility and integrity of parliamentary opposition.

Of this diminution of strength we were painfully and sensibly reminded during the session by the summary and rapid dismissal, in the House of Lords, of measures which had cost much time and labour to the House of Commons.

But we remembered that in the years 1868 and 1870, when the mind of the country was unambiguously expressed, the House of Lords had, much to its honour, deferred to that expression upon matters of great moment; and I cannot doubt that it would have continued in this course had the isolated and less certain but still frequent and fresh indications of public opinion at single elections continued to be in harmony with the powerful and authentic but now more remote judgment of 1868.

This state of things, which was not satisfactory at the close of the last session, and which has not admitted of remedy by the method of resignation and a change of Government, has not improved during the recess, especially the latter part of the recess; and the time has now arrived when the Administration, able to anticipate and survey the principal parts and the general character of the work which awaits it, has been called on to consider whether it could reasonably undertake such work without a fresh access of strength, and to frame its advice to Her Majesty accordingly.

The question whether Ministers ought to retain or to abandon office should be decided by a general election, with the opportunity which it affords for broad declarations of policy and issues truly national, and cannot be satisfactorily solved by isolated contests

of which the issue is in a greater degree dependent on close discipline and finished and concentrated organisation.

From a state of things thus fitful and casual we desire to pass to one in which the nation will have had full opportunity of expressing its will and choice as between the political parties. The Government of the day, whatever it be, will be armed with its just means of authority both within and without the legislature. The Opposition will enjoy the power and doubtless will not shrink from the duty of taking office. The House of Commons will be reinstated in its full possession of constitutional authority, and when it shall see cause to withdraw its confidence from an administration, it will not leave the Sovereign without resource.

Such will be the general objects, then, with which a new Parliament will be summoned. I proceed to speak of the work which it will have to do.

I need not dwell on the elementary and ever-abiding duties of the Ministry, such as the maintenance of the country's honour, of the general peace, of the rights of all classes, of the insular security; but I will state that we desire to found the credit and influence of our foreign policy upon a resolution to ask from foreign powers nothing but what in like circumstances we should give ourselves, and as steadily to respect their rights as we would tenaciously uphold our own.

With regard to the unhappy war on the Gold Coast, our object has been to prosecute it with vigour, subject to a due regard to the exigencies of climate and the value of human life, and only within the limits which justice and future security prescribe. We shall aim at the establishment not only of peace, but of friendship with the Ashantees, and we shall, I hope, seek to draw from what has happened a lesson on the duty of avoiding in future the first entrance into equivocal and entangling engagements. Meantime, we repose the utmost confidence in the British general, officers, and soldiers; and we cherish the hope that we are about to emerge at an early date, and on good terms, from the conflict.

When I turn to the general subjects of internal legislation I have to speak rather as a member of a party than as a member of a Cabinet. For it is the duty of a Cabinet to bind itself, or to mature its collective views, on all subjects of public interest, but only upon such as are to form the early subjects of practical treatment.

I fear that [the time has not yet come when you can anticipate a diminution in the calls for legislative labour. Permanent and solid as is the union of the three kingdoms, they present varieties of circumstance, of organisation and even of law. These varieties, combined with the vast development of imperial interests, add seriously to the duties of Parliament, which, indeed, have reached a point where they seem, for the present, to defy all efforts to overtake them. I think we ought not only to admit, but to welcome every improvement in the organisation of local and subordinate authority, which, under the unquestioned control of Parliament, would tend to lighten its labours and to expedite the public business.

As regards the important Act of 1870 for the promotion of education, I am one of those who had no preference for the latter over the earlier adjustments of the bill. But they were adjustments adapted to the state of public opinion at the time; and it appears to me that no main provision of the measure can advantageously be reconsidered without the aid of an experience such as we have not yet acquired. With regard to one or two points, calculated to create an amount of uneasiness out of proportion to their real importance or difficulty, I do not doubt that the wisdom of the renovated legislature will discover the means of their accommodation.

Both in Scotland and in Ireland there are many questions requiring the attention of Parliament. Among such, however, as are peculiar to them, I will only now mention the completion of the weighty legislation of last year by the reconstruction of their judicial establishment, and by admitting them to the advantages, not yet measured by experience, of the new Court of Appeal.

It is more appropriate to the nature of an address such as this that I should touch upon subjects which are in the main of a common interest to all the three countries. I will however say, with special relation to England, that it seems almost a reproach to our Parliaments that, down to the present time, we should have been unable to deal effectively with the local government and institutions of this great metropolis; and I must also express my hope that the inquiries of the commission appointed to examine into the property and income of the universities and colleges of Oxford and Cambridge may lead to a great further extension of the benefits conferred by those great and powerful bodies.

The laws respecting the transfer, the descent, and the occupation of land; the laws respecting game, the laws respecting the sale of spirituous liquors, the laws affecting the relations between employer and employed, the laws of rating and of local government, are among the subjects likely to come in turn under the notice of the new Parliament. In some of these matters there is, in my judgment, room for extensive improvement; and they all, I trust, will be dealt with in a spirit of impartial justice.

Of all the changes marking the present day there is none which I view with more heartfelt satisfaction than the progressive rise of wages in the agricultural districts. I view this rise as the natural and proper, though long delayed, result of economic laws; as the removal of something like a national discredit; as carrying with it a great addition to the stock, never too abundant, of human happiness, and as a new guarantee for the stability of the Throne and institutions of the country.

I have never concealed my opinion that those institutions will be further strengthened by granting to the counties generally that extended franchise which has been conceded with general satisfaction to the towns and to the populations of a number of rural districts with a central village which may perhaps be called peasant-borough. I earnestly desire to witness the formation of a mature public opinion on a subject which has hardly yet obtained all the attention which it deserves. I, for one, will say nothing upon it that could tend to rouse the jealousies of class or of party; and I cherish the hope that at no distant day our loyal, patient, and, as I hold, intelligent peasantry, may, together with the other important classes now unfranchised, for no other reason than that they reside

beyond the boundaries of boroughs, receive this boon at the hands of the legislature, without conflict, without intrigue, and by general consent.

I come now to questions of expenditure and finance. It may be stated with truth that next to the great Irish questions of Church and Land, now happily disposed of, the elections of 1868 turned in no small degree upon expenditure. I do not deny that we charged our predecessors with improvidence in the stewardship of the public funds.

It has been shown by my friend Mr. Childers, in his place in Parliament, conclusively and without reply, that we have not forgotten the declarations of 1868, nor receded from them. In the estimates of our first two years for the defensive services of army and navy we were able to propose reductions amounting in round numbers to 4,000,000*l.* in the charge of our peace establishments. It is true that we are not able at this moment to place such a sum to our credit in comparing our estimates with those of the last Government. I am far from saying that we have perfect reason to be satisfied with our own efforts or with the results of them. Still, let it be considered, first, by what special and necessary acts of policy they have been hindered; secondly, what the results actually are. We cannot escape the effect of such calls as that for the abolition of purchase, which was, I think, well described as the redemption of the army, or for the augmentation of the education vote, to the great and unquestioned benefit of the country.

But notwithstanding these demands, notwithstanding the calls arising at the period of the great war of 1870, notwithstanding the serious burden of the rise of prices, something not wholly insignificant has been achieved. Setting aside the debt, and founding the comparison on the basis of what may be called the optional expenditure, derived from taxes and forming the proper test of the disposition of a Government, it was shown that a saving had been effected at the close of the very last financial year amounting to 2,350,000*l.*, and this, as we contend, with no diminution, but with a great increase, of our defensive force, both naval and military.

Upon a review of the finance of the last five years, we are enabled to state that, notwithstanding the purchase of the telegraphs for a sum exceeding 9,000,000*l.*, the aggregate amount of the National Debt has been reduced by more than 20,000,000*l.*; that taxes have been lowered or abolished (over and above any amount imposed) to the extent of 12,500,000*l.*; that during the present year the Alabama indemnity has been paid, and the charge of the Ashantee war will be met out of revenue; and that, in estimating, as we can now venture to do, the income of the coming year (and, for the moment, assuming the general scale of charge to continue as it was fixed during the last session), we do not fear to anticipate as the probable balance a surplus exceeding rather than falling short of 5,000,000*l.*

The existence of such a surplus will offer, in our judgment, a great opportunity of affording relief to the community, which ought to be turned to the very best account.

I have accepted with much reluctance the charge of the finances of the country in addition to my other duties. But as this is now the tenth occasion on which I am called, as the Minister immediately responsible, to consider the financial arrangements of the coming year, you may be willing to believe that I am not speaking lightly when I proceed to indicate an outline of the boons which, in the absence of some gravely unfavourable and unforeseen incident, it will be in the power of the new Parliament at once to confer.

In the first place, there is a general desire that some assistance should be afforded to the ratepayers of the country from funds at present under the command of the State.

The Government have been unable to meet the views of those who appear to have thought that, provided only a large amount of public money could be had in any form to relieve the rates, no great heed need be paid to anything else. But they have never felt themselves compelled to deny the wish of such as think that a further portion of the charges hitherto borne by real and immovable property should, with judicious accompanying arrangements, be placed upon property generally. Their endeavour has been, and their resolution is, to have a thorough and comprehensive, not a partial handling of the question, and in our future proceedings we shall, I trust, exert ourselves to keep in view all that it involves, to strengthen the invaluable traditions and to improve the organs of local government, to keep central control within the limits of sound policy, to maintain and, if possible, to enhance the guarantees for provident administration, to avoid the repetition of unseemly contests, and the danger which would arise if Parliament were gradually to lay upon labour a portion of the burdens hitherto borne by property: in a word, to reform, as well as to enlarge, the aid granted by the State to local expenditure. The first item, then, which I have to set down in the financial arrangements proper for the year is relief, but relief coupled with reform, of local taxation.

What I have said refers properly to England, but it would be impossible to exclude from view the case of Scotland, which is very closely analogous, or that of Ireland, which presents larger variations.

I now turn to a subject of a less complex character, but of even greater importance—I mean the income-tax.

According to the older financial traditions the income-tax was a war tax. For such a purpose it is invaluable. Men are willing to sacrifice much, not only of their means, but of their privacy, time, and comfort, at the call of patriotism.

In 1842 the income-tax was employed by Sir Robert Peel, partly to cover a serious deficit in the revenue, but principally to allow of important advances in the direction of free trade. I need not dwell on the great work of liberation which had been accomplished by its aid. Mainly, perhaps, on this account, it has been borne with an exemplary patience. But no Government has ever been able to make it perpetual, like our taxes in general, or even to obtain a renewal for any very long term of years. Since 1860 it has been granted by an annual Act. During a long time, for reasons on which it is not necessary for me here to dwell, the country cherished, together with the desire, the expectation or hope of its extinction. But the sum annually drawn from it formed so heavy an item in the accounts from year to year that it appeared to have

grown unmanageable. It has, however, been the happy fortune of Mr. Lowe to bring it down, first from 6d. to 4d., and then from 4d. to 3d. in the pound. The proceeds of the income-tax for the present year are to be between 5,000,000l. and 6,000,000l., and at a sacrifice for the financial year of something less than 3,500,000l. the country may enjoy the advantage and relief of its total repeal.

I do not hesitate to affirm that an effort should now be made to attain this advantage, nor to declare that, according to my judgment, it is in present circumstances practicable.

And yet, while making this recommendation and avowal, I have more to add. It will have been observed that the proposals I have mentioned contemplate principally the relief of rateable and other property, although there are many among the payers of income-tax the association of whom with that term seems almost to mock them. But it is manifest that we ought not to aid the rates, and remove the income-tax, without giving to the general consumer, and giving him simultaneously, some marked relief in the class of articles of popular consumption.

It may be observed that the changes I have indicated would dispose of more, indeed considerably more, than the surplus I have named; and that I am entitled to consider any larger balance of available revenue during the coming financial year from the present sources as they are fixed by law. But I have said nothing to preclude the Government from asking Parliament to consider, in conjunction with those great remissions, what moderate assistance could be had from judicious adjustments of existing taxes. And it is scarcely necessary for me to add that, admitting, as I do admit, the declarations of 1868, I for one could not belong to a Government which did not on every occasion seek to enlarge its resources by a wise economy. But these, I admit, are general declarations. Their whole value depends upon their future and practical development. On this subject I will frankly allow that the question is or the moment one of confidence. The policy of the Government for the last five years in particular, the character and opinions of my colleagues, and the financial and commercial legislation with which I may say that, since 1842, I have been associated, are before you. I can only add that I have not spoken lightly, but deliberately, and with full persuasion.

I have now, gentlemen, endeavoured to supply to you the means of estimating generally, but with, I hope, sufficient accuracy, the views and intentions of the Government with respect to its policy and immediate legislation; but more especially with reference to the financial work, which they now offer themselves to undertake and to perform. Undertaken and performed I trust it will be, whether by us or by others. It is for you to say by whom. As for all that lies beyond, in the region of the many and arduous questions to some of which I have referred, I can give no unlimited pledge of personal aid or service, in the forty-second year of a laborious public life, and with the desire, which I feel both entitled and bound to cherish, for repose. But for the present I am at your service, and so I trust are the colleagues who have performed the work and made the character of the present Government, and to whom I owe a lively and unending gratitude.

It is sometimes said, gentlemen, that we of the Liberal Government and party have endangered the institutions and worried all the interests of the country. As to the interests I am aware of no one that we have injured. If we have unhappily offended any, it has been neither our intention nor our wish, but the consequence of our anxiety to consult the highest interest of all, in which all others are involved—the interest of the nation.

As to the institutions of the country, gentlemen, the charge is the very same that you have been accustomed to hear urged against Liberal Governments in general for the last forty years. It is time to test, by a general survey of the past, this trite and vague allegation. Now there has elapsed a period of forty, or more exactly forty-three years, since the Liberal party acquired the main direction of public affairs. This followed another period of about forty years, beginning with the outbreak of the revolutionary war, during which there had been an almost unbroken rule of their opponents, who claimed, and were reputed to be, the great preservers of the institutions of the country. But I ask you to judge the men by the general results. I fear we must admit that the term of forty years of Tory rule, which closed in 1830, and to which you are invited to return, left the institutions of the country weaker, aye, even its peace and order less secure, than at the commencement of the period it had found them. I am confident that if now the present Government be dismissed from the service of their gracious mistress and of the country, the Liberal party, which they represent, may at least challenge contradiction when they say that their term of forty years leaves the throne, the laws, and the institutions of the country, not weaker, but stronger, than it found them.

Such, gentlemen, is the issue placed before you, and before the nation, for your decision. If the trust of this administration be, by the effect of the present elections, virtually renewed, I, for one, will serve you, for what remains of my time, faithfully; if the confidence of the country be taken from us and handed over to others whom you may judge more worthy, I, for one, shall accept cheerfully my dismissal.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obliged and most faithful servant,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

11, Carlton-house-terrace, Jan. 23.

MR. DISRAELI'S ADDRESS.

The following address has been issued to the electors of the county of Buckingham:—

Gentlemen,—Mr. Gladstone has informed the electors of Greenwich that Her Majesty has been advised by Her Ministers to dissolve the present Parliament.

Whether this step has been taken as a means of avoiding the humiliating confession by the Prime Minister that he has, in a fresh violation of constitutional law, persisted in retaining for several months a seat to which he was no longer entitled, or has been resorted to by his Government in order to postpone or evade the day of reckoning for a war carried on without communication with Parliament and the expenditure for which Parliament has not sanctioned, it is unnecessary at pre-

sent to consider. It is sufficient to point out that if, under any circumstances, the course—altogether unprecedented—of calling together Parliament by special summons for the despatch of business and then dissolving it before its meeting could be justified, there is in the present case no reason whatever suggested why this was not done six weeks ago, and why the period of the year usually devoted to business before Easter, which must now be wasted, should not thus have been saved.

Gentlemen, I appeal to you again for the continuance of that confidence which you have extended to me on nine different occasions, running over a period longer than a generation of men.

The Prime Minister has addressed to his constituents a prolix narrative, in which he mentions many of the questions that have occupied, or may occupy, public attention, but in which I find nothing definite as to the policy he would pursue, except this, that, having the prospect of a large surplus, he will, if retained in power, devote that surplus to the remission of taxation, which would be the course of any party or any Ministry. But what is remarkable in his proposals is that, on the one hand, they are accompanied by the disquieting information that the surplus, in order to make it adequate, must be enlarged by an "adjustment" which must mean an increase of existing taxes, and that, on the other hand, his principal measures of relief will be the diminution of local taxation and the abolition of the income-tax, measures which the Conservative party have always favoured, and which the Prime Minister and his friends have always opposed.

Gentlemen, I have endeavoured, and, if returned to Parliament, I shall, whether in or out of office, continue the endeavour, to propose or support all measures calculated to improve the condition of the people of this kingdom. But I do not think this great end is advanced by incessant and harassing legislation. The English people are governed by their customs as much as by their laws, and there is nothing they more dislike than unnecessary restraint and meddling interference in their affairs. Generally speaking, I should say of the administration of the last five years that it would have been better for us all if there had been a little more energy in our foreign policy and a little less in our domestic legislation.

By an act of folly or of ignorance rarely equalled, the present Ministry relinquished a treaty which secured us the freedom of the Straits of Malacca for our trade with China and Japan, and they, at the same time, entering on the West Coast of Africa into those "equivocal and entangling engagements" which the Prime Minister now deprecates, involved us in the Ashantee war. The honour of the country now requires that we should prosecute that war with the vigour necessary to ensure success; but when the honour is vindicated, it will be the duty of Parliament to inquire by what means we were led into a costly and destructive contest which neither Parliament nor the country has ever sanctioned, and of the necessity or justice of which, in its origin, they have not been made aware.

The question of a further reform of the House of Commons is again suggested by the Prime Minister, I think unwisely. The argument for extending to the counties the household franchise of the towns on the ground of the existing system being anomalous is itself fallacious.

There has always been a difference between the franchises of the two divisions of the country, and no one has argued more strongly than the present Prime Minister against the contemplated identity of suffrage. The Conservative party view this question without prejudice. They have proved that they are not afraid of popular rights. But the late Reform Act was a large measure, which, in conjunction with the Ballot, has scarcely been tested by experience, and they will hesitate before they sanction further legislation, which will inevitably involve, among other considerable changes, the disfranchisement of at least all boroughs in the kingdom comprising less than 40,000 inhabitants.

Gentlemen, the impending general election is one of no mean importance for the future character of this kingdom. There is reason to hope, from the address of the Prime Minister, putting aside some ominous suggestions which it contains as to the expediency of a local and subordinate legislature, that he is not, certainly at present, opposed to our national institutions or to the maintenance of the integrity of the empire. But, unfortunately, among his adherents some assail the Monarchy, others impugn the independence of the House of Lords, while there are those who would relieve Parliament altogether from any share in the government of one portion of the United Kingdom. Others, again, urge him to pursue his peculiar policy by disestablishing the Anglican as he has despoiled the Irish Church; while trusted colleagues in his Cabinet openly concur with them in their desire altogether to thrust religion from the place which it ought to occupy in national education.

These, gentlemen, are solemn issues, and the impending general election must decide them. Their solution must be arrived at when Europe is more deeply stirred than at any period since the Reformation, and when the cause of civil liberty and religious freedom mainly depends upon the strength and stability of England. I ask you to return me to the House of Commons to resist every proposal which may impair that strength and to support by every means her imperial sway.

B. DISRAELI.

Hughenden Manor, Jan. 24.

The right hon. gentleman is to appear at Aylesbury on Saturday, and will dine at the market ordinary. He will no doubt deliver a speech on the occasion.

MR. FORSTER'S ADDRESS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster addressed a crowded meeting of the electors in the Alhambra Music Hall, Bradford, on Monday night. He said the sole reason for dissolving Parliament in the manner adopted was as Mr. Gladstone had stated. There was no truth in the statement that there was a quarrel in the Cabinet; in fact, there was no unforeseen nor extraordinary cause for the dissolution beyond those that Mr. Gladstone had stated. It was not, as had been insinuated, in consequence of bad news from the Gold Coast, because the news from that quarter had been as good as could have

been expected under the circumstances. He did not deny that they had had bad news coming to them from different places; they had had news from Stroud and many other places. They had not had such good news from Newcastle. It was not bad news that Mr. Cowen had been elected, and he hoped that gentleman would be returned again; but it was bad news that Mr. Cowen was returned by a much smaller majority than they liked. That was the whole secret of this dissolution. The real reason the Cabinet unanimously accepted Mr. Gladstone's proposal to dissolve was because they were tired of those signal defeats, and they wished to appeal to the whole country by a general election, and to find out in the voice of the three islands which Government should conduct the administration of the country. He would not review the past, but leave that for history. On the other hand he would look to the future. In regard to the county franchise, he saw no reason why men in counties, whether they be agricultural labourers or otherwise, should not be endowed with the same privileges of voting as the borough householder, but a measure to secure that equality must either be accompanied or closely followed by a redistribution of seats. The greatest argument against the county franchise was that agriculturists were not so educated as the borough electors; and that brought him to the education question, which he would not shirk. He defended his action in regard thereto, and the main principles of the measure he would still abide by. He was not prepared, in future legislation, to abolish or repeal the "Cowper-Temple clause." He was in favour of compulsion; and with respect to the 25th clause he maintained the right of the parent to choose the school to which he should send his child, especially if that parent was compelled to send his child to school. That principle he could not and would not give up, not if it cost him his seat and the highest political prize he ever could hope to attain—continuing to be their member. He maintained that if they were to put in force compulsion, it would not be just to punish the parent because he happened to be too poor to pay the fee. He defended the Government with regard to the general principles of education, and said that the position in which they left the question was this. Not only was it the duty of the State to see that the children were taught, but it was the duty of the parent to see that his child should be taught, and it was merely a question of detail as to how that principle should be carried out throughout the country. If he were defeated he had the consolation of knowing that the passing of the Act had resulted in an increased attendance of children at school, and that the quality and efficiency of the teaching were increasing. He defended the motives which had actuated him in proposing the measure, and pointed to the scheme of the Bradford and other school boards to show that religious teaching could be given in board schools without difficulty. He then referred to questions likely to be introduced in the new Parliament affecting the trade of the country. He claimed to be the friend of the working man. Mr. Forster also spoke in favour of changes in the law of conspiracy, the Masters and Servants Act, and the Criminal Law Amendment Act. He was in favour of the Nine Hours' Bill, but it would have to be proved that there was no real danger of losing trade, and that the working men themselves were in favour of the bill.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

The subjoined information has been received from special correspondents who, with others not yet able to send, have engaged to supply us with information direct during the general election:—

ESSEX.

There will be a warm contest in the chief town of the county, Colchester. Dr. Brewer, Liberal, and Colonel Learmonth, Conservative, seek re-election. Dr. Brewer espouses Mr. Gladstone's programme and advocates disestablishment of the Church of England. He will have a colleague in the person of Mr. R. K. Causton, son of Sir Joseph Causton. Mr. Causton, though a Churchman, is in favour of the liberation of the Church from State patronage and control, and an undenominational system of education. Col. Learmonth has for his colleague Mr. Fraed, but neither of these candidates has yet avowed the policy he will support. At Harwich, Col. Jervis, Conservative, who signalled himself in the past session by attending only three divisions, will be unopposed. In West and East Essex, Lord E. Cecil and Sir Selwin-Ibbetson, Conservatives, will not be opposed. In South Essex, the two Liberals, Mr. R. B. W. Baker, and Mr. A. Johnstone, will be opposed by Conservatives. Both the Liberals have expressed themselves against the disestablishment of the Church. Sir John Bennett has been selected by the Liberals of Maldon as a candidate in place of the retiring member, Mr. Bental; Mr. Stevenson retiring. Mr. Sandford is the Conservative candidate.

SUFFOLK.

For Ipswich Mr. H. E. Adair and Mr. H. W. West, Q.C., the retiring members, offer themselves for re-election, and the party is thoroughly united. The Nonconformists, in view of the issues at stake, will sink all minor questions, and work heartily with Liberal Churchmen, in order to return their late representatives. One of the Conservative candidates is Mr. J. P. Cobbold, a brewer and banker, and rich in public-house influence. Mr.

Bulwer, the other candidate, is a barrister. The unity of the Liberals renders them hopeful, and a determined effort will, without doubt, be made to retain their position. In East Suffolk the electors have been surprised by the retirement of Mr. Corrance, Conservative, and Lord Rendlesham, whom the tenant farmers refused to support seven years ago, is put forward as Mr. Corrance's successor. Lord Mahon, the other retiring Tory candidate, has issued his address. The report that Sir Morton Peto would come forward was entirely without foundation, and we have authority for stating that that gentleman never entertained the idea of offering himself. There is, however, some reason to believe that a Liberal will be brought forward. At Eye, Lord Barrington offers himself for re-election. His lordship is not popular. He was brought down by Sir Edward Kerrison, the local landowner, and it is supposed that his lordship holds his seat more for his own convenience than for the public benefit. At any rate his constituents know very little of him. Mr. Hardcastle, Liberal, and Mr. E. Greene, Tory, will come forward again at Bury St. Edmund's, and Lord Francis Hervey, Conservative, a younger member of the Bristol family, will join Mr. Greene. Mr. Lamport, of London, is talked of as a second Liberal candidate. In West Suffolk it is not likely Lieut. Col. Parker and Lord A. Hervey, another member of the Bristol family, will be opposed. Both are genuine agricultural Tories, and the district is Conservative. On all sides we hear of the surrender of minor points of difference between Nonconformists and Liberal Churchmen, in order that disunion should not lead to defeat.

NORTH-WEST YORKSHIRE.

Bradford, Monday Evening.

The announcement of the dissolution was received here as everywhere, with the most intense astonishment, and formed the sole topic of conversation to-day "on 'Change," and wherever else two or three were met together. The Right Hon. W. E. Forster arrived from town on the same day as the startling news, and issued his address immediately, seeking re-election. There are, however, nothing more than personal and local matters dealt with in the address. The right hon. gentleman is acting independently of the Liberal party as represented by the Liberal Electoral Association. A strong feeling was expressed among the members of that association in favour of again contesting the borough in Mr. Miall's interest, even though that gentleman should adhere to his expressed determination not to take a personal share in the campaign. A meeting of the association to consider a letter received this afternoon from Mr. Miall is being held while I write. This communication, however, expresses the hon. gentleman's final decision not to enter the lists. Mr. Forster addresses the electors to-night at the Alhambra Music Hall, a large wooden structure, formerly a circus, which will contain from 2,000 to 3,000 people. Alderman Law is to preside, and a very excited meeting is expected. Mr. H. W. Ripley, who defeated Mr. Miall at the 1868 election, and was afterwards unseated on petition, has issued a lengthy address to-day. He does not regard the separation of Church and State as at present a growing question, and says that "any attempt to sever the connection between these two estates of the realm shall have my most determined opposition, because I believe that great religious benefit has been the result of that connection." The address of Mr. James Hardaker, the working men's candidate, has also been published to-day, being of the advanced Liberal type. It will thus be seen that there is every prospect of a lively contest for the two seats, as, while both the Liberal and Conservative executives have yet to determine upon their course of action, there are already three independent candidates in the field.

8 P.M.—Mr. Miall's valedictory address has been, perforce, accepted by the Liberal Electoral Association, though not without many expressions of deep regret. A meeting of the Liberal executive will be held to-morrow, when a selection of names will be made to be submitted to a mass meeting of the party.

Mr. F. S. Powell (Conservative) has just issued his address to the electors of the Northern Division of the West Riding, seeking re-election, and relying on his past services. Lord Frederick Cavendish, will also again come forward, and with him will be joined Mr. Matthew Wilson.

The Bradford Observer of yesterday says:—"The letter received yesterday from the late junior member for Bradford settles the question of his retirement. He is no longer our representative, nor will he stand again for this constituency; and it is idle—a sacrifice of clearness of view and a diversion and waste of energy—to expect him to stand again. It may be unfortunate to have to change our front in the face of the enemy, and especially unfortunate to be deprived of a candidate so much beloved and bearing such a talismanic name as Edward Miall, but we must meet the exigencies of our position as we best can, and clearness of view and stoutness of heart will do great things for us, as they have done before. We do not know whom the Liberal party will choose in the place of Mr. Miall, but it is obvious that he should belong to the same section of the party as Mr. Miall belonged to, and that his views on ecclesiastical and educational questions should be the same. Thus the party will get fair play in their representation, as it has had for so many years. Moreover, the best tribute of respect that we can pay to Mr. Miall will be to send a like-

minded man to the House of Commons, to advocate the principles so dear to the leader of the Liberationist cause." The same paper says that the names which would be put forward as possible candidates in Mr. Miall's place at the meeting of the Liberal Electoral Association are Mr. J. V. Godwin, Mr. A. Illingworth, and Mr. Isaac Holden. It is probable, also, that Mr. Hardaker's friends will submit his name to the meeting. The two gentlemen out of the four who get the largest show of hands will be the candidates adopted.

THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

For the East Riding itself it is probable Mr. Christopher Sykes and Mr. Harrison Broadley will be again elected. At the last election Sykes polled 6,297, and Broadley 5,591, and Col. Heyworth Booth, the Liberal candidate, 2,601, and the register has not since been looked after by the Liberals.

In Hull Mr. Norwood, the Liberal member, will seek re-election, in conjunction with Mr. Charles Henry Wilson, shipowner, of the firm of Thomas Wilson, Sons and Co. Mr. Norwood will no doubt receive the hearty support of those who wish education to be free from sectarian trammels, and who would be glad to see the Church of England disestablished. Mr. Wilson's address has not yet appeared, and therefore it is not known exactly what line he will take. He is a Churchman, and a most munificent supporter of the Seamen's Orphan Asylum, which is regarded as a Church institution as the Hull Seamen's Orphan Home is regarded as a Dissenting institution. Mr. Wilson has agreed to vote for the second reading of the Permissive Bill, and will thus secure the votes of the Alliance voters and Templars. The Conservatives will only have one candidate, Col. Pease, who was elected a few weeks ago to fill the vacancy arising through the death of Mr. James Clay, who had been member for Hull a quarter of a century. At the late bye election, when Mr. Reed, C.B., was the Liberal candidate, Col. Pease was returned by a majority of about 300, and on that occasion the temperance party abstained from voting. It is therefore thought that on this occasion the two Liberals will be elected.

Malton generally returns a Fitzwilliam—the Hon. W. C. C. Fitzwilliam, Liberal, was its representative in the last Parliament, and most likely will be in the next. No other candidate is at present before the electors.

In Scarborough, the old members, Mr. J. Dent and Sir Harcourt Johnstone, Liberals, are candidates for re-election, and they are opposed by Professor Thorold Rogers, of Oxford, an advanced Liberal, and Sir Charles Legard, Conservative. It is thought that the new candidates have a good chance of winning.

In York, Mr. George Leeman and Mr. James Lowther, the old members, are again candidates, and will probably be elected without contest. Both are well-known, Mr. Leeman as a Liberal, and Mr. Lowther as a Conservative.

KENDAL.

There will be a contest in this borough. Mr. John Whitwell seeks re-election as a supporter of Mr. Gladstone. His address is of a very general character, and avoids reference to religious questions. It may, however, be stated that Mr. Whitwell is opposed to disestablishment, having recently in his annual address to the constituency positively declared himself to that effect, and pledged himself to oppose Mr. Miall's motion should it again be brought forward. He is in favour of the compulsory establishment of school boards and of repealing the 25th clause of the Education Act. He will receive the support of the Nonconformists and of a good many Churchmen, he himself being a member of the Establishment. The Dissenters, who, it is known, constitute the majority of the voters, have, in fact, decided to sink religious questions in the present emergency. This is done chiefly out of consistency with the course adopted by them when Mr. Whitwell first came forward in 1868, and when they unconditionally pledged themselves to support him. Recent public discussions, however, prove beyond doubt that the electors who would favour disestablishment predominate; and it is undoubted that the advanced Liberal policy in regard to education would be fully supported; and many Liberals have declared that after having seen Mr. Whitwell through the present crisis they will thenceforward be satisfied with nothing short of a disestablishment candidate. The Conservative candidate is Mr. W. A. F. Sanders, of Wannington Hall, Lancashire. He is an extreme Tory, and will receive only the strong Church votes. It is expected that Mr. Whitwell will receive three-fourths of the votes; but there will very likely be a good number of abstentions. Nothing definite is yet known as to whether there will be a contest for the county of Westmoreland.

NORTH OF ENGLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The return of Mr. Joseph Cowen is as certain as things future and contingent can be. Mr. Headlam is distasteful to all thorough Liberals among the middle-classes, and more than distasteful to working men. He goes for Mr. Morgan's Burial Bill, equality in the Universities, but not for disestablishment, and is thoroughly with Mr. Forster. The difficulty, however, is to supply his place with a man who shall be at once acceptable to the Moderates and to the Radicals. At the moment of writing Mr. Hamond—called Independent—really Tory, is canvassing, though his address is not yet out. It is uncertain who ultimately will be the Tory candidate.

SUNDERLAND.—Our much esteemed friend Mr. Candlish, who has undergone tracheotomy, and is now at Cannes, has been communicated with. Under no circumstances will he stand again. The Liberal candidates are Mr. Gourley and Sir Henry Havelock, the last a name to conjure with on the Wear, his father, the general, being a native of the town of Sunderland, in the public park of which town stands a statue to his illustrious memory. Sir Henry is a Nonconformist and an advanced Liberal, and lately contested Stroud. Sunderland folk have had to send all the way to Liverpool for a Tory in the person of Mr. Bailly to attack the impregnable Liberal position.

TYNEMOUTH.—T. E. Smith, Esq., who did good yeoman service so lately, as the Chairman of Mr. Cowen's committee at Newcastle, is secure here; though Tories are told to withhold promises till their unknown "conquering hero comes."

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Mr. J. C. Stevenson is at present the only candidate. He is a good Liberal, and in his address goes for "the amendment of the Education Act in the direction of a national system."

MORPETH.—Sir G. Grey retires. Mr. Burt, the miners' candidate, will probably be returned unopposed.

DURHAM CITY.—Mr. T. C. Thompson is spoken of as almost certain to be the second candidate in the Liberal interest. A second Conservative candidate was also spoken of, but no name is mentioned.

SOUTH DURHAM.—Mr. H. E. Surtees (C.) will probably be brought forward against the sitting members, Major Beaumont and Mr. J. W. Pease.

DARLINGTON.—Mr. H. R. Spark is likely to oppose Mr. Backhouse. The latter has the support of all the influential electors who are not Conservative.

STOCKTON.—Mr. Dodds will most likely go in without opposition.

MIDDLESBOROUGH.—Mr. Kane, who for many years has been connected with the Ironworkers' Union, and goes for the Permissive Bill and Home Rule, will probably oppose Mr. Bolckow.

THE HARTLEPOOLS.—Mr. R. Ward-Jackson, Conservative, won the last election by three only. The Liberals want a man, having so far failed to secure a champion.

BERWICK.—The Conservatives will be represented by, it is expected, Mr. Hodgson Huntley and Captain Milne Home, younger, of Wedderburn. Viscount Bury, it is expected, retires in favour of Sir Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, Bart. The other Liberal candidate will be Mr. Stapleton.

GATESHEAD.—Sir W. Hutt retires. Mr. C. M. Palmer and Mr. W. H. James both had some claim on the Liberals; the former gives place to the latter. It is rumoured that Mr. Palmer may contest North Durham. A Tory is in the field in the person of Mr. Richard Foster, who created much amusement awhile since by his politically incoherent postprandial address at the Town-hall of this borough. There is a danger here that the working men may run a candidate and endanger the Liberal seat. Mr. W. H. James in his address is silent on some questions.

NORTH WALES.

For Anglesea, Richard Davies, from all that can be seen so far, will not be opposed. In the Anglesea boroughs Morgan Lloyd, who is an advanced Liberal, and will go in for disestablishment, is almost certain; indeed, I have not the slightest doubt in the matter. In Carnarvonshire there will be a most severe contest. I feel very confident that we shall be able to carry Jones Parry, whose votes have always been right. In the Carnarvonshire boroughs it is very doubtful now whether anyone will be brought forward to oppose Hughes, who is growing old and too Conservative for the Radicalism of this constituency. A meeting is called for to-morrow, when the matter will be decided. The county of Denbigh will not be disturbed. We shall not attempt this time to disturb Sir Watkin; and his friends will not attempt Mr. Osborne Morgan's seat. There will be a tough fight in the Denbigh boroughs. Mr. Watkin Williams in a speech a fortnight ago injudiciously threw "cold water" upon the Permissive Bill, and its supporters now threaten vengeance; but I consider Mr. Williams perfectly safe. I don't expect that Matthew Richards will be opposed in the county of Cardigan. Doubtful as to whether Sir Thomas Lloyd will be allowed a "walk over." Should Davies, Llandinam, come forward he will be sure to get in. Relative to Montgomery county, it was last week announced that Davies, Llandinam, was going to contest this county. It appears now that he is not. He was the only man who at present could be carried. Very doubtful I think whether Crewe-Reade will come out. If he did, he never can be carried: he is unknown; is an Englishman; in fact would create no enthusiasm—hence, never could be carried. In Flint and Flintshire, I fancy the two present members will again be elected.

WESTERN SCOTLAND.

Glasgow, Monday Evening.

So far as has yet appeared no avowed Liberationist candidate has announced himself in the West of Scotland. The question of Church and State, indeed, shows little signs of occupying a prominent place in the present contest. Scotch Liberals, as a body, seem rather disposed to accept the issue, as Mr. Gladstone has presented it, whether shall Whig or Tory rule, and they are hopeful that the constituencies will repeat the answer returned in 1868, when not a single burgh accepted a Conservative, and

only some half-a-dozen country seats were left in the possession of the defenders of the Irish Church.

In Glasgow it seems probable that the three former members will retire. Mr. Dalglish, the senior member, who was a lukewarm Parliamentarian, who managed to represent all parties pretty fairly, has announced his intention of withdrawing from the House of Commons—being unwilling to undertake the trouble and fatigue incident to a city contest, and thinking that at the time of life at which he has arrived he is entitled to some repose. Mr. Graham, an outspoken and trusted friend of Free Churches—a Nonconformist long held in high esteem by his party—has also, I am told, declined to face another election struggle, and Mr. Anderson, the working man's candidate, the author of the Wages Assessment Act, but the keen opponent of Mr. Duncan McLaren in his efforts, now happily successful, to abolish the Edinburgh Annuity-tax—is also reported hesitant. His name has been prominently identified with two unfortunate mining speculations; but while this connection, added to his anti-dowry demonstrations in company with Sir Charles Dilke, has lost him the favour of the West-end electors, his Wages Assessment Act, and general Radicalism, have preserved for him his popularity among the more advanced politicians belonging to the working classes. On the other hand, are Mr. M'Liver, proprietor of a newspaper in Bristol, a relative of the late Lord Clyde, and as such connected by parentage with Glasgow, who has announced himself as an advanced Liberal; and Mr. J. C. Wakefield, a merchant, who was chairman of one of Lord Aberdare's committees when, as Mr. Bruce, he represented the county of Renfrew. Mr. Wakefield is a Liberal, but I am not sure if this description of his creed applies to Church politics, though doubtless he will be a friend, as everybody now-a-days is, of "civil and religious liberty." The Conservatives are endeavouring to induce Mr. Whitelaw, chairman of the school board, and a partner of the great coal and iron firm, Baird and Co., of Gartsherrie, to become a candidate for one of the seats, and it is feared that, under the ballot, the three-cornered voting arrangement may enable the Tories to carry one man for Glasgow.

From the representation of Paisley, Mr. H. E. Crum-Ewing has retired on account of his advancing age and increasing infirmities, and this Liberatorist seat seems likely to fall to Mr. William Holmes, a Glasgow merchant, who in his address says,—"I am a member of the Established Church of Scotland, and a firm supporter of religious liberty. I am, however, opposed to all further endowments by the State. With respect to patronage in the Church of Scotland, I would heartily support any measure for securing to the people the selection of their minister." This declaration is not sufficiently explicit. Possibly the application of a little pressure by the Paisley Radicals may enable Mr. Holmes to exhibit himself as an unmistakable Free-Church candidate. For the Falkirk Burghs, from which Mr. Merry retires, Mr. Ramsay, the former member for the Stirling Burghs, has issued an address. Mr. Ramsay is at present a member of the Scotch Education Board. Some time ago he distinguished himself by the active support he gave Mr. Duncan McLaren in his as yet unsuccessful effort to abolish church-rates in Scotland as they have been abolished in England. In all likelihood, Mr. Ramsay will have something to say on this subject when he makes his tour of the boroughs. Mr. James White, of Oberton, who also supported this measure, and who commands great influence alike in the Free Church, the City of Glasgow, and the county of Dumbartonshire is being pressed to contest Dumbartonshire, with Mr. Orr Ewing, who in general politics is a hybrid, but in ecclesiastical politics a strong Churchman. If Mr. White should be persuaded to stand he would give Mr. Orr Ewing a fright; but unless he come forward, the present Liberal-Conservative member will in all probability secure an easy re-election.

NORTHERN SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen, Monday.

Very little change in the representation of the North of Scotland is likely to take place at the present election. No contest is expected in the city or either division of the county of Aberdeen. Mr. Dingwall Fordyce, the member for East Aberdeenshire, is a consistent advocate of religious freedom and equality, and is also completely en rapport with the great majority of his constituents in various questions of agricultural politics that have for some time excited a great amount of attention in this part of the country. Mr. McCombie, the member for the western division of the county, though a sound Liberal on agricultural questions, is less to be relied on in educational and ecclesiastical questions. The member for the city—Mr. Farley Leith, Q.C.—may be characterised as *squeezable*, and though he is not prepared at present to vote for disestablishment, it may be assumed that when that question takes a practical shape he will be found on the Liberal side. There is, however, a widespread feeling among the more advanced portion of the constituency that a change in the representation is desirable, and to-day there is some talk of a requisition being got up asking Mr. John Webster, advocate, a former Lord Provost of the city, and the assessor of the Lord Rector (Professor Huxley) in the University Court, to come forward. Mr. Webster, should he be induced to stand, would be a very formidable opponent to the sitting member. He is known to be in favour of the fullest religious equality, and of a purely secular education so far as the school boards and rates are concerned. And what is very im-

portant in a constituency like Aberdeen, Mr. Webster, who is a Free-Church office-bearer, might be expected to obtain a large portion of the Free-Church vote. It is not considered very probable, however, that he will consent to become a candidate.

In the neighbouring country of Kincardine there will be a contest between the sitting member, General Sir George Balfour, an earnest and thorough-going Liberal, and Mr. Badenach Nicolson, a local landed proprietor and Edinburgh advocate, who is a Tory on Church questions, and a Radical on almost everything else. It is generally believed that the sitting member's position is in no great danger.

Banffshire will again return Mr. R. W. Duff. Mr. Duff was an "Aduillamite" in 1866, and has always been regarded as a rather slow-going Liberal; but in addressing his constituents recently, he surprised a good many of them by declaring himself opposed to the principle of a State-Church, "because if a man is the sole judge—and if no other man has a right to judge—between God and his own conscience, then you have no right to make a man pay for a religion he does not believe in." "While I am by no means tied to the Established Church," added Mr. Duff, "I am by no means prepared to attack the Established Church, although in a way it is not to be defended."

In Morayshire there will be a contest between Viscount Macduff, a promising Whig, and Colonel Grant, the present Conservative. The struggle will be to some extent a territorial one between the noble houses of Duff and Grant.

Mr. Grant-Duff will be returned without opposition for the Elgin Burghs.

The Inverness Burghs will be contested by Mr. Fraser Macintosh, a local lawyer, against Mr. Macintosh of Raigmore, the present Whiggish member. Mr. Fraser Macintosh is strongest on the land and game questions; and neither of the two candidates has much to recommend him to the voluntary portion of the electors.

The county of Inverness will probably be contested in the Liberal interest, either by a tenant-farmer candidate or by Sir George Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch, a Whig with some reputation for ability.

Little is known as yet of the prospects in the far north. A contest in Caithness, where Sir Tollemache Sinclair, the present representative, is not exactly popular. Otherwise the northern representation will probably not be disturbed.

Forfarshire, at present represented by Mr. James W. Barclay, an advanced Liberal, is to be the scene of an ill-judged effort to secure a restoration of territorialism; but it seems not to be quite certain whether the "coming man" is to be a Whig or a Tory. Mr. Barclay, though not taking a prominent part in religious and educational questions, is thoroughly in harmony with the friends of equal justice to all sections.

The Right Hon. W. E. Baxter will have to fight for his seat, his opponent being Col. Macdonald Macdonald of St. Martin's, a somewhat eccentric and violent Tory. Mr. Baxter's position is not in any great danger. His politics do not require to be explained to readers of the *Nonconformist*.

LIST OF CANDIDATES.

[The following list of candidates is necessarily imperfect, and we dare say in some cases inaccurate. It has, however, been corrected from the information contained not only in the London papers, but in the country dailies. The letter "L" stands for Liberal, and "C" for Conservative.]

ABINGDON—A. Arnold, L.; Col. Lindsay, C.
ANDOVER—Hon. D. Fortescue, L.; Capt. Wellesley, C.
ANGLESEY—R. Davies, L.
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE—A. Buckley, L.; T. W. Mellor, C.
AYLESBURY—G. Howell, L.; N. M. Rothschild, L.; S. G. Smith, C.
BANBURY—B. Samuelson, L.
BARNSTAPLE—S. D. Waddy, L.; T. Cave, L.; Colonel Holt, C.
BATH—Captain Hayter, L.; Lord J. Hervey, L.; Lord Grey de Wilton, C.; Major Bousfield, C.
BEAUMARIS—M. Lloyd, Q.C., L.; Capt. Verney, L.; Capt. H. Lewis, C.
BEDFORD—S. Whitbread, L.; Capt. Polhill Turner, C.
BEDFORDSHIRE—F. Bassett, L.; Colonel Gilpin, C.; Colonel Stuart, C.
BERKS—J. Walter, L.; Colonel Lindsay, C.; R. Benyon, C.
BERWICK—J. Stapleton, L.; Sir D. Majoribanks, L.; Lord Bury, C.; Captain Horne, C.; H. Huntley, C.
BEWDLEY—C. Harrison, L.; G. Griffith, L.; S. Leighton, C.; G. Smith, Ind.
BIRKENHEAD—J. Laird, C.
BIRMINGHAM—Right Hon. J. Bright, L.; G. Dixon, L.; —Gilliver, L.; P. H. Muntz, L.
BLACKBURN—Mr. Shackleton, L.; Mr. W. Briggs, L.; H. M. Feilden, C.; D. Thwaites, Ind. C.
BODMIN—Hon. E. Leveson-Gower, L.; Captain Sargeant, L.; A. Rogers, C.
BOLTON—Colonel Gray, C.; J. Hick, C.
BOSTON—W. G. Ingram, L.; T. Parry, L.; J. W. Malcolm, C.; T. Collins, C.
BRADFORD—Right Hon. W. E. Forster, L.; J. Hardaker, L.; W. H. Ripley, C.
BRECKNOCK—J. P. G. Holford, C.
BRECKNOCKSHIRE—Hon. G. Morgan, C.

BRIDGNORTH—H. Foster, Ind.
BRIDPORT—T. A. Mitchell, L.
BRIGHTON—G. Duddell, Ind. L.; J. White, L.; H. Fawcett, L.; Jas. Ashbury, C.; General Shute, C.
BRISTOL—S. Morley, L.; K. D. Hodgson, L.; S. V. Hare, C.; J. H. Chambers, C.
BUCKINGHAM—Sir H. Verney, L.; E. Hubbard, C.
BUCKS.—Tully, L.; N. G. Lambert, L.; Rt. Hon. B. Disraeli, C.; Sir R. Harvey, C.
BURNLEY—R. Shaw, L.
BURY—R. N. Phillips, L.; O. O. Walker, C.; —Richardson, C.
BURY ST. EDMUNDS—J. A. Hardcastle, L.; C. Lamport, L.; E. Greena, C.; Lord F. Hervey, C.
CALNE—Lord E. Fitzmaurice, L.
CAMBRIDGE—Sir R. Torrens, L.; W. Fowler, L.; P. B. Smollett, C.; A. G. Marten, C.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE—Right Hon. H. Brand, L.; Lord G. Manners, C.; Hon. E. C. Yorke, C.
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY—Right Hon. S. Walpole, C.; A. J. B. Hope, C.
CANTERBURY—T. H. Brinckman, L.; H. A. B. Johnstone, C.; L. A. Majendie, C.
CARDIFF—Col. Stuart, L.; H. Giffard, Q.C., C.
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CARDIGANSHIRE—E. M. Richards, L.
CARLISLE—Sir W. Lawson, L.; Ferguson, L.; W. Slater, L.; W. Banks, C.; W. F. Eceyrd, C.
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CARMARTHENSHIRE—E. J. Sartoris, L.; Viscount Emlyn, C.; J. Jones, C.
CARNARVON DIST.—J. Roberts, L.; W. B. Hughes, L.
CARNARVONSHIRE—T. L. Jones Parry, L.; Hon. G. D. Pennant, C.
CHATHAM—A. J. Otway, L.; Admiral Elliot, C.
CHELSEA—Sir H. Hoare, L.; Sir C. Dilke, L.; W. Gordon, C.; G. M. Kiell, C.
CHELTENHAM—H. C. Samuelson, L.; L. J. T. Agg-Gardner, C.
CHESHIRE, E.—W. J. Legh, C.; W. C. Brooks, C.
CHESHIRE, M.—Hon. W. Egerton, C.; Colonel Leigh, C.
CHESHIRE, W.—Sir P. Egerton, C.; W. F. Tollemache, C.
CHESTER—Hon. J. G. Dodson, L.; Hon. N. Grosvenor, L.; H. C. Raikes, C.
CHICHESTER—Lord H. Lennox, C.
CHIPPENHAM—G. Goldney, C.
CHRISTCHURCH—H. Burke, L.; Sir H. D. Wolf, C.
CIRENCESTER—A. A. Bathurst, C.
CLITHEROE—R. Asheton, C.
COCKERMOUTH—J. Fletcher, L.
COLCHESTER—Dr. Brewer, L.; W. B. Causton, L.; Col. Learmouth, C.; H. B. Praed, C.
CORNWALL, E.—J. Tremayne, C.; R. Rashleigh, C.
CORNWALL, W.—Sir J. St. Aubyn, L.; A. P. Vivian, L.
COVENTRY—S. Carter, L.; H. M. Jackson, L.; H. W. Eaton, C.; A. S. Hill, C.
CRICKLADE—Hon. F. Cadogan, L.; Henry Tucker, L.; Sir D. Gooch, C.; Merria, C.
CUMBERLAND, E.—Hon. O. Howard, L.; W. N. Hodgson, C.; Sir R. Musgrave, C.
CUMBERLAND, W.—Hon. P. Wyndham, C.; Lord Muncaster, C.
DARLINGTON—E. Backhouse, L.
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DERBY—M. T. Bass, L.; S. Plimsoll, L.
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DERBYSHIRE, N.—Lord G. Cavendish, L.; —Sidebotham, C.; Capt. Arkwright, C.
DERBYSHIRE, S.—R. Smith, C.; Sir H. Whitmot, C.
DEVIZES—Sir T. Bateson, C.; D. Griffiths, C.
DEVONPORT—J. D. Lewis, L.; J. H. Paley, C.
DEVONSHIRE, E.—Sir L. Palk, C.; Sir J. Kennaway, C.
DEVONSHIRE, N.—Sir T. Acland, L.; Sir S. Northcote, C.
DEVONSHIRE, S.—Sir Massey Lopes, C.; J. C. Garnier, C.
DEWBURY—Serjeant Simon, L.; Captain Colbeck, C.
DORCHESTER—F. S. Head, L.; W. E. Brymer, C.
DORSETSHIRE—Hon. W. H. B. Portman, L.; H. Gerard Sturt, C.; J. Floyer, C.
DOVER—C. Weguelin, L.; C. Inderwick, L.; Major Dickson, C.; E. W. Barnett, C.
DROITWICH—Sir John Pakington, C.
DUDLEY—H. B. Sheridan, L.; S. Shennstone, C.; J. Smith, C.
DURHAM, N.—Sir H. Williamson, Bart., L.; Geo. Elliot, C.
DURHAM, S.—J. W. Pease, L.; Major Beaumont, L.; Col. Surtees, C.; W. Trotter, C.
DURHAM—J. Henderson, L.; T. C. Thompson, L.; J. L. Wharton, C.
ESSEX, E.—J. Round, C.; Col. Brise, C.
ESSEX, S.—R. B. W. Baker, L.; A. Johnston, L.; T. C. Baring, C.; Lt.-Col. Makins, C.
ESSEX, W.—Sir H. Ibbetson, C.; Lord E. Cecil, C.
EVESHAM—J. N. Higgins, L.; Col. Bourne, C.
EXETER—E. A. Bowring, L.; A. Mills, C.; J. G. Johnson, C.
EYE—Vis. Barrington, C.
FINCHURCH—W. T. M. Torrens, L.; Alderman Lusk, L.; Col. Randolph, C.

FLINT—Sir R. Cusliffe, L.; Capt. Conwy, C.
 FLINTSHIRE—Lord R. Grosvenor, L.
 FROME—H. C. Lopes, Q.C., C.
 GATESHEAD—W. H. James, L.; R. Forster, C.
 GLAMORGANSHIRE—C. R. M. Talbot, L.; H. H. Vivian, L.
 GLOUCESTER—J. Monk, L.; W. K. Wait, C.; Sir T. Laurence, C.
 GLOUCESTER, E.—J. Powell, Q.C., L.; Sir M. Beach, C.; J. R. Yorke, C.
 GLOUCESTER, W.—Col. Kingscote, L.; Hon. C. Berkeley, L.; Capt. Heyworth, L.; Hon. R. E. Plunket, C.
 GRANTHAM—Sir H. Cholmeley, L.; Hon. F. J. Tollemache, L.; Capt. Cust, C.
 GRAVESEND—Sir C. J. Wingfield, L.; Captain B. Pim, C.
 GREENWICH—Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, L.; B. Langley, L.; J. Nolan, L.; T. W. Boord, C.; J. E. Liardet, C.
 GRIMSBY—Col. Tomline, Ind.; D. Onalow, C.
 GUILDFORD—G. J. H. Onalow, L.; D. Onalow, C.
 HACKNEY—J. Holms, L.; C. Reed, L.
 HALIFAX—Right Hon. J. Stansfeld, L.; J. Crossley, L.
 HAMPSHIRE, N.—G. Selater-Booth, C.; W. W. B. Beach, C.
 HAMPSHIRE, S.—Right Hon. W. F. Cowper-Temple, L.; Lord Henry Scott, C.
 HARTLEPOOL—R. Ward-Jackson, C.; —Richardson, L.
 HARWICH—Lieut.-Col. Jervia.
 HASTINGS—Thos. Brassey, L.; U. Kay-Shuttleworth, L.; P. F. Robertson, C.; R. Nicholson, C.
 HAVERFORDWEST—Lord Kensington, L.; Colonel Peel, C.
 HEILSTON—A. W. Young, L.; Colonel N. Lees, C.
 HEREFORD—A. Clive, L.; Major Arbuthnot, C.
 HEREFORDSHIRE—M. Biddulph, L.; Sir J. R. Bailey, C.; Major Peplow, C.
 HERTFORD—A. J. Balfour, C.
 HERTFORDSHIRE—H. R. Brand, L.; Hon. F. Cowper, L.; A. Smith, C.; T. F. Halsey, C.
 HORSHAM—R. H. Hurst, L.; Sir S. Fitzgerald, C.
 HUDDERSFIELD—E. A. Leatham, L.
 HULL—C. M. Norwood, L.; C. H. Wilson, L.; Colonel Pease, C.
 HUNTINGDON—Sir John Karslake, C.
 HUNTINGDONSHIRE—E. Fellowes, C.; Sir H. Pelly, C.
 IPSWICH—H. E. Adair, L.; H. W. West, L.; J. P. Cobbold, C.; J. R. Bulwer, C.
 ISLE OF WIGHT—Hon. E. Ashley, L.; A. B. Cochrane, C.
 KENDAL—J. Whitwell, L.; W. F. Saunders, C.
 KENT, E.—E. L. Pemberton, C.; Hon. G. W. Miles, C.
 KENT, M.—W. H. Dykes, C.; Viscount Holmesdale, C.
 KENT, W.—E. Marjoribanks, L.; A. Swanzy, L.; C. H. Mills, C.; J. G. Talbot, C.
 KIDDERMINSTER—Thomas Lea, L.
 KNARESBOROUGH—Sir A. Fairbairn, L.; Basil Woodd, C.
 LAMBETH—Sir J. Lawrence, L.; W. M'Arthur, L.; M. Howard, C.
 LANCASHIRE, N.—Hon. C. Cavendish, L.; Capt. Hon. F. Stanley, C.; Col. Wilson Patten, C.
 LANCASHIRE, N.E.—W. Simpson, L.; Lord E. Cavendish, L.; J. M. Holt, C.; J. C. P. Starkie, C.
 LANCASHIRE, S.E.—Hon. A. Egerton, C.; J. Snowden Henry, C.
 LANCASHIRE, S.W.—R. A. Cross, C.; C. Turner, C.
 LANCASTON—Colonel Deakin, C.
 LEEDS—Alderman Carter, L.; R. Baines, L.; W. Wheelhouse, C.; R. Tennant, C.
 LEICESTER—P. A. Taylor, L.; J. H. B. Warner, C.
 LEICESTERSHIRE, N.—Lord J. Manners, C.; S. W. Clowes, C.
 LEICESTERSHIRE, S.—A. Pell, C.; W. U. Heygate, C.
 LEOMINSTER—R. Arkwright, C.
 LEWES—A. Cohen, L.; W. L. Christie, C.
 LICHFIELD—Major Arden, L.; Colonel Dyott, C.
 LINCOLN—C. Seely, L.; J. H. Palmer, L.; Colonel Chaplain, C.
 LINCOLNSHIRE, N.—R. Winn, C.; Sir J. Astley, C.
 LINCOLNSHIRE, MID.—Henry Chaplin, C.; Hon. E. Stanhope, C.
 LINCOLNSHIRE, S.—W. E. Welby, C.; E. Turner, C.
 LISKEARD—Right Hon. E. Horsman, L.; E. M'Arthur, L.
 LIVERPOOL—W. Rathbone, L.; W. Caine, L.; Lord Sandon, C.; J. Torr, C.; W. Simpson, C.
 LONDON—Right Hon. G. Goschen, L.; W. Lawrence, L.; Baron Rothschild, L.; P. Twells, C.; J. G. Hubbard, C.; Alderman Cotton, C.
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 LYMINOTON—Major C. West, L.; Lord G. Lennox, C.
 LYNN REGIS—E. K. Wodehouse, L.; J. Gibbs, L.; Hon. R. Bourke, C.; Lord C. J. Hamilton, C.
 MACCLESFIELD—W. C. Brocklehurst, L.; D. Chadwick, L.; W. M. Eaton, C.; T. Croston, C.
 MAIDSTONE—Sir J. Lubbock, L.; Sir S. Waterlow, L.; Major Ross, C.; Colonel Hon. J. Stanley, C.
 MALDON—Sir J. Bennett, L.; G. M. Sandford, C.
 MALMESBURY—W. Powell, C.
 MALTON—Hon. C. Fitzwilliam, L.

MANCHESTER—Jacob Bright, L.; H. Birley, C.; W. R. Callender, C.
 MARLBOROUGH—Lord E. A. Bruce, L.
 MARLOW, GREAT—T. O. Wethered, C.
 MARYLEBONE—Sir T. Chambers, L.; M. Barry, L.; T. Hughes, L.; D. Grant, L.; E. James, L.; W. Forsyth, C.
 MERIONETHSHIRE—S. Holland, L.
 MERTHYR—H. Richard, L.; R. Fothergill, L.; T. Halliday, L.
 MIDDLEBRO'—H. F. Bolckow, L.; J. Kane, L.
 MIDDLESEX—Lord Enfield, L.; Lord G. Hamilton, C.; O. E. Coope, C.
 MIDHURST—W. T. Mitford, C.
 MONMOUTH—H. D. Pochin, L.; T. Cordes, C.
 MONMOUTHSHIRE—Col. F. Morgan, C.; Lord H. Somerset, C.
 MONTGOMERY—Hon. C. T. Tracy, L.
 MONTGOMERYSHIRE—C. W. W. Wynn, C.
 MORPETH—T. Burt, L.; Captain Duncan, C.
 NEWARK—S. B. Bristow, L.; —Earp, L.; Capt. Field, C.; Colonel Eyre, C.
 NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME—W. S. Allen, L.; H. J. Salmon, L.; Sir E. Buckley, C.; H. T. Davenport, C.
 NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE—J. Cowen, L.; Right Hon. T. Headlam, L.; —Hamond, C.
 NEWPORT—C. C. Clifford, L.; Col. Twyford, C.
 NORFOLK, N.—Hon. F. Walpole, C.; Sir E. Lacon, C.
 NORFOLK, S.—C. S. Read, C.; Sir R. Buxton, C.
 NORFOLK, W.—Sir W. Bagge, C.; G. W. P. Bentinck, C.
 NORTHALLERTON—G. W. Elliot, C.
 NORTHAMPTON—Lord Henley, L.; E. Gilpin, L.; C. Bradlaugh, L.; C. G. Merewether, C.; P. Phipps, C.
 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, NORTH—Right Hon. G. Ward Hunt, C.; G. S. Sackville, C.
 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, SOUTH—Sir R. Knightley, C.; Major Cartwright, C.
 NORTHUMBERLAND, NORTH—Earl Percy, C.; M. W. Ridley, C.
 NORTHUMBERLAND, SOUTH—W. B. Beaumont, L.; Sir A. Monck, L.; Hon. H. G. Liddell, C.
 NORWICH—Sir W. Russell, Bart., L.; J. J. Colman, L.; Sir H. Stracey, C.; J. W. Huddleston, C.
 NOTTINGHAM—C. Seely, jun., L.; Hon. A. Herbert, L.; D. W. Heath, L.; S. Isaac, C.; W. E. Denison, C.
 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, NORTH—F. Chatfield Smith, C.; Hon. G. E. M. Monckton, C.
 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, SOUTH—Captain Storer, C.
 OLDHAM—J. T. Hibbert, L.; B. J. Stanley, L.; John Cobbett, C.; Sergeant Spinks, C.
 OXFORD CITY—Right Hon. E. Cardwell, L.; Sir W. Harcourt, L.; A. W. Hall, C.
 OXFORDSHIRE—W. C. Cartwright, L.; Right Hon. J. W. Henley, C.; Colonel North, C.
 OXFORD UNIVERSITY—Right Hon. G. Hardy, C.; Right Hon. J. Mowbray, C.
 PEMBROKE—E. J. Reed, L.; T. Meyrick, C.
 PENRYN AND FALMOUTH—H. T. Cole, Q.C., L.; —Jenkins, L.; R. N. Fowler, C.; E. B. Eastwick, C.
 PEMBERKSHIRE—J. H. Scourfield, C.
 PETERBOROUGH—G. H. Whalley, L.; W. Wells, L.; T. Hankey, L.; N. Goodman, L.; W. S. Marriott, L.; R. M. Kerr, L.; G. Potter, L.; H. T. Wrenfordale, C.
 PETERSFIELD—W. Nicholson, L.; Captain Jolliffe, C.
 PLYMOUTH—W. Morrison, L.; Sir G. Young, L.; E. Bates, C.; S. S. Lloyd, C.
 PONTEFRAC—H. C. Childers, L.; Lord Pollington, C.; Major Waterhouse, C.
 POOLE—C. Waring, L.; A. E. Guest, C.
 PORTSMOUTH—W. H. Stone, L.; Sir J. Elphinstone, C.; Hon. T. C. Bruce, C.
 PRESTON—E. Hermon, C.; J. Holker, C.
 RADNORSHIRE—Mr. Green Price, L.; Hon. A. Walsh, C.
 READING—Sir F. H. Goldsmid, L.; G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, L.; R. Attenborough, C.; W. D. Mackenzie, C.
 RETFORD, E.—F. J. S. Foljambe, L.; Viscount Galway, C.
 RICHMOND—J. C. Dundas, L.; C. B. Cooke, L.; N. J. Morrill, C.
 RIPON—Sir Henry Storks, L.
 ROCHDALE—T. B. Potter, L.
 ROCHESTER—P. W. Martin, L.; Julian Goldsmid, L.; Major Bell, C.; J. Bateman, C.
 RUTLAND—Hon. G. J. Noel, C.; G. H. Finch, C.
 RYE—Major Gen. Fyche, L.; J. S. Hardy, C.
 ST. IVES—C. Magniac, L.; E. G. Davenport, C.
 SALFORD—Kay, Q.C., L.; C. E. Cawley, C.; W. T. Charley, C.
 SALISBURY—Dr. Lush, L.; A. Seymour, L.; G. R. Ryder, C.; Adam S. Kennard, C.
 SANDWICH—Right Hon. E. H. K. Huggessen, L.; H. A. Brasey, L.; Capt. H. Hallett, C.; H. S. Bailie, C.
 SCARBOROUGH—Sir H. Johnstone, L.; J. D. Dent, L.; Sir C. Legard, C.
 SHAFESBURY—H. D. Seymour, L.; V. F. B. Stanford, C.
 SHEFFIELD—A. J. Mundella, L.; J. H. Chamberlain, L.; —Allott, L.
 SHOREHAM—Rt. Hon. S. Cave, C.; Sir P. Burrell, C.
 SHREWSBURY—Cotes, L.; —Robertson, L.; J. Figgins, C.; D. Straight, C.
 SHROPSHIRE, N.—Bowen Jones, L.; J. R. O. Gore, C.; Visct. Newport, C.
 SHROPSHIRE, S.—Major Gen. Sir P. Herbert, C.; Col. Corbett, C.

SOMERSET, E.—Major Allen, C.; R. Bright, C.
 SOMERSET, M.—Major Paget, C.; R. N. Grenville, C.
 SOMERSET, W.—Captain Hon. A. W. Hood, C.; Major Lee, C.
 SOUTHAMPTON—G. Moffatt, L.; Sir F. Perkins, L.; Right Hon. Gurney, C.; Captain Engledue, C.
 SOUTH SHIELDS—J. C. Stevenson, L.
 SOUTHWARK—J. Locke, L.; F. Lycett, L.; Lt.-Colonel Beresford, C.
 STAFFORD—Captain T. Salt, C.
 STAFFORD, E.—M. A. Bass, L.; S. C. Allsopp, C.
 STAFFORDSHIRE, N.—Sir E. Buller, L.; Sir C. B. Adderley, C.; C. M. Campbell, C.
 STAFFORDSHIRE, W.—Sir S. Child, C.; F. Monckton, C.
 STALYBRIDGE—N. Buckley, L.
 STAMFORD—Sir John Hay, C.
 STOCKPORT—W. Tipping, C.; P. Mitford, C.
 STOCKTON—J. Dodds, L.
 STOKE—W. S. Roden, L.; George Melly, L.; R. Heath, C.; A. A. Walton.
 STROUD—S. S. Dickinson, L.; —Stanton, L.; J. E. Dorington, jun., C.
 SUFFOLK, E.—Lord Rendlesham, C.; Lord Mahon, C.
 SUFFOLK, W.—Colonel Parker, C.; Lord A. Hervey, C.
 SUNDERLAND—Sir H. Havelock, L.; E. T. Gourley, L.; L. Bailey, C.
 SURREY, E.—H. Goschen, L.; Hon. P. J. L. King, L.; J. Watney, C.; W. Grantham, C.
 SURREY, M.—H. W. Peek, C.; Sir R. Baggalay, C.
 SURREY, W.—H. King, L.; Geo. Cubitt, C.; Lee Steere, C.
 SUSSEX, E.—G. B. Gregory, C.; M. D. Scott, C.
 SUSSEX, W.—Colonel Barttelot, C.; Earl of March, C.
 SWANSEA—L. L. Dillwyn, L.
 SWINDON—W. Powell, C.
 TAMWORTH—Sir R. Peel, L.; R. W. Hanbury, C.
 TAUNTON—A. C. Barclay, L.; Sir Henry James, L.
 TAVISTOCK—Lord A. J. E. Russell, L.
 TEWKESBURY—W. E. Price, L.; Sir E. Lechmere, C.
 THIRSK—Sir W. P. Gallwey, C.; Major Stapylton, C.
 TIVERTON—J. H. Amory, L.; Rt. Hon. W. Massey, L.; J. W. Walrod, C.
 TOWER HAMLETS—Right Hon. A. S. Ayton, L.; J. D. Samuda, L.; Captain Maxse, L.; R. Ritchie, C.
 TRURO—F. W. Williams, C.; Colonel Hogg, C.
 TYNEMOUTH—T. E. Smith, L.; J. Trotter, C.
 WAKEFIELD—R. B. Mackie, L.; E. Green, C.
 WALLINGFORD—J. Wells, C.
 WALSALL—C. Forster, L.
 WAREHAM—J. S. Drax, C.
 WARRINGTON—P. Rylands, R.; G. Greenall, C.
 WARWICK—A. W. Peel, L.; W. Cremer, L.; G. W. Repton, C.; —Godson, C.
 WARWICKSHIRE, N.—C. N. Newdegate, C.; W. O. Davenport, C.
 WARWICKSHIRE, S.—Earl of Yarmouth, C.; Sir J. E. Wilmot, C.
 WEDNESBURY—A. Brogden, L.; R. Mills, C.
 WENLOCK—A. H. Brown, L.; Major-General Forester, C.
 WESTBURY—C. P. Phipps, C.
 WESTMINSTER—Sir T. F. Buxton, L.; W. H. Smith, C.
 WESTMORELAND—Earl of Bective, L.; Hon. N. Lowther, C.
 WEYMOUTH—H. Edwards, L.; C. J. Hambro, C.; Sir F. Johnstone, C.
 WHITEBY—W. H. Gladstone, L.; C. Bagnal, C.
 WHITEHAVEN—G. C. Bentinck, C.
 WIGAN—Hy. Woods, L.; J. Lancaster, L.; Lord Lindsay, C.; T. Knowles, C.
 WILTON—Sir E. Antrobus, L.
 WILTS, N.—Lord Chas. Bruce, L.; Sir G. Jenkinson, C.; S. Estcourt, C.
 WILTS, S.—T. F. Grove, L.; Lord H. Thynne, C.; Lord Folkestone, C.
 WINCHESTER—H. B. Carter, L.; W. B. Simonds, C.; A. R. Naghten, C.
 WINDSOR—R. Eykyn, L.; R. R. Gardner, C.
 WOLVERHAMPTON—Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, L.; T. M. Weguelin, L.; Major Thornycroft, C.
 WOODSTOCK—Hon. G. C. Brodrick, L.; Lord R. Churchill, C.
 WORCESTER—A. C. Sheriff, L.; T. R. Hill, L.; J. F. Airey, L.; W. Laalett, C.; J. D. Allcroft, C.
 WORCESTER, E.—Hon. C. Lyttelton, R.; H. Allsopp, C.
 WORCESTER, W.—F. G. Knight, C.; W. E. Dowdeswell, C.
 WREKHAM—W. Williams, L.
 WYCOMBE—Lieut.-Col. Hon. H. P. Carrington, L.
 YORK—G. Leeman, L.; J. Lowther, C.; Hon. L. P. Dawnay, C.
 YORKSHIRE, E.R.—C. Sykes, C.; W. H. H. Broadley, C.
 YORKSHIRE, N.R.—F. A. Milbank, L.; C. Duncombe, C.
 YORKSHIRE, W. R., E. Div.—C. B. Denison, C.; J. Fielden, C.
 YORKSHIRE, W. R., N. Div.—Lord F. C. Cavendish, L.; M. Wilson, L.; F. S. Powell, C.
 YORKSHIRE, W. R., S. Div.—H. F. Beaumont, L.; Hon. C. Wood, L.; S. W. Stanhope, C.; L. R. Starkey, C.

[The arrangement of candidates in Scotland and Ireland is at present too incomplete to be quoted in full. But some information relative to Scotland is given by our own correspondents.]

THE EDUCATION ACT.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—At the weekly meeting of this body on Wednesday, Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., presiding, the debate was renewed on Canon Gregory's motion for the appointment of a committee to consider the statistics on which the board had formed their plans for supplying the requisite number of schools for the metropolis. Mr. Henry Gover moved the previous question, preferring to treat the motion as inopportune rather than to give it the direct negative. He expressed surprise that Canon Gregory should have declared that there was already an excess of school accommodation while he sought subscriptions for his own schools. He denied, also, that the establishment of board schools could, in the main, have injured voluntary schools, and he believed the board would soon find the provision made far below instead of above, the requirements. Mr. E. N. Buxton seconded the previous question, and, after other members had spoken, the debate was again adjourned.

BATH SCHOOL BOARD.—At the election for this city last week the eight retiring members, who offered to renew their services, were re-elected, and these comprise six Churchmen, one Wesleyan, and one Roman Catholic. The three new members belong to the Congregational body. There were four unsuccessful candidates, two of whom were working men. The new board has one lady less than its predecessor.

NEWPORT SCHOOL BOARD.—The election for this town in Monmouthshire has resulted in the return of the Churchmen, two Roman Catholics, two Wesleyans, and three Nonconformists.

SOUTH SHIELDS SCHOOL BOARD.—The result of this election last week was the return of five Churchmen, two Roman Catholics, three unsectarian, and one "Independent"—giving the Denominationalists a majority on the new board.

EXETER SCHOOL BOARD was elected without opposition. The Conservatives occupy five seats out of nine, and the Liberals are represented by two Churchmen, a Wesleyan, and a Secularist.

WORCESTER SCHOOL BOARD election was decided without a contest. The old board consisted of nine members, of whom six were Churchmen and three Nonconformists. Eight new members were nominated, when a conference took place, with a view, if possible, of obviating a contest, and the result was that all the new names were withdrawn, with one exception; and as the Rev. Canon Wood, one of the old board, retired, Mr. Carey, a Nonconformist, was elected, making the new board to consist of five Churchmen and four Nonconformists. Mr. G. W. Hastings is chairman.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SCHOOL BOARD.—In this town there were ten candidates for nine seats. The result was that the five Churchmen were returned at the head of the poll; then came three of the four unsectarian educationalists (Birmingham leaguers); and lastly, the Roman Catholic. One "unsectarian" was thus thrown out.

BERKHAMPTFORD.—At a meeting under the auspices of the Berkhamstead Nonconformist Association, held on Friday evening in the Baptist schoolroom, the Rev. J. Harcourt presiding, the forthcoming school board election was considered, and it is expected that there will be no contest, but that two Nonconformists, and an undenominational Churchman, the present chairman, and two clergymen—now on the board—will be the future representatives. Only one Nonconformist is at present on the school board.

NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE.—The following is the substance of a circular addressed to the officers of branches:—"The dissolution of Parliament imposes upon the executive of the National Education League the duty of calling the attention of members of our organisation to the necessity of immediate political action. The reference to education in the address of the Prime Minister indicates on his part a serious misapprehension of the gravity of the question, and postpones to a remote period any hope of Ministerial amendments of the Education Act in a Liberal direction. It is necessary, therefore, that the omissions and the neglect of the Government should be repaired by the Liberal party, and that the establishment of a really national system of education should be made a distinct and leading feature of the Liberal programme. It is imperative, as an earnest of this, that the Education Act should be amended next session, in regard to some at least of its most obnoxious provisions. We therefore strongly press upon you to exert your utmost influence upon candidates for the representation in your neighbourhood, in order to pledge them to vote for the repeal of the 25th Clause of the Education Act, and to resist any further concessions to denominational interests, and generally to promote the objects contemplated by the advocates of an unsectarian system of national education, controlled by the elected representatives of the ratepayers."

MR. BAINES, M.P., AND THE EDUCATION QUESTION.—The following correspondence appears in the *Leeds Mercury* of yesterday:—

THE REV. HENRY W. HOLLAND TO MR. BAINES.
Dear Sir,—As the education question has divided the Liberal party and is now one of the issues placed before the country, I trust you will permit me to ask you a few questions.

1. Will you support in Parliament a measure for the compulsory establishment of school boards everywhere?
2. Will you vote for the absolute repeal of the 25th Clause?
3. Will you vote in favour of the universal application of compulsion for securing the attendance of the scholars?

4. Will you vote for the establishment of an undenominational school board school within reasonable distance of every family?

An answer to these questions will greatly oblige,
Yours faithfully,
HENRY W. HOLLAND.

To Mr. E. Baines, M.P.

MR. BAINES'S REPLY TO THE REV. H. W. HOLLAND.

Dear Sir,—I have pleasure in giving the following replies to your questions:—

1. I will support in Parliament (as I have already, two years since, advocated out of Parliament) a measure for the compulsory establishment of school boards everywhere.

2. I voted last session, and shall continue to vote, for the absolute repeal of the 25th Clause.

3. I will vote in favour of the universal application of compulsion for securing the attendance of the scholars; and I believe that this may be done without violence to the conscience of any poor man, by means of the clause moved last session by Mr. Samuelson (for which I voted and spoke), to the effect that denominational schools receiving Parliamentary grants should be obliged by law to give free education to a certain number of indigent children, on the application of the school board.

4. I will vote for the establishment of an undenominational school board school within reasonable distance of every family. I suggested this two years since in my reply to the Bramley deputation; and I am glad to know that the same proposal was passed at the Wesleyan Educational Committee and adopted by the Conference.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

EDW. BAINES.

The Rev. H. W. Holland.

THE REV. H. W. HOLLAND TO MR. BAINES, M.P.

Dear Sir,—I have read your reply to my questions with great interest, and with very agreeable surprise. I am gratefully surprised to find you much nearer the Nonconformist platform on the education question than is generally supposed.

You do not go as far as I do, but as there must be some concession, and as you are in the right direction and adopt the platform of the Methodist Conference on the elementary education question, you will have my support.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY W. HOLLAND.

Mr. E. Baines, M.P.

Epitome of News.

On Friday the Queen received telegrams from the Emperor of Russia and from the Duke of Edinburgh announcing the celebration of the marriage at St. Petersburg. In the evening there was a ball in the servants' hall for the servants and tenants of the Osborne estate. The Queen and the royal family were present for a part of the time.

It is understood that there will be a great gathering at Chislehurst on March 18, when the Prince Imperial attains his majority. The young prince is making great progress with his studies.

Mrs. Baxter, wife of the right hon. member for the Montrose burghs, has been seriously ill at Palermo, in Sicily. She is now recovering.

On Monday Mr. Justice Grove gave judgment in the case of the Taunton election petition. After reviewing the evidence on both sides, he said that he considered the agency had not been established, and he decided that Sir Henry James was duly elected, and he saw no reason for departing from the usual course that the costs should follow the court. He therefore adjudged that the costs should be paid by the petitioners.

Public notice was given by the Lord Mayor, from his seat in court, on Saturday, that subscriptions will be received at the Mansion House for the relief of sufferers by the dearth in India, and that a sum of 500*l.* had been received from one gentleman, while smaller contributions had either been handed in or promised.

Mr. Adam Black, the well-known Edinburgh publisher, and who represented the city in the House of Commons from 1856 to 1865, died on Saturday, in his ninetieth year. He was chosen five years in succession as Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and was a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for that city. Mr. Black many years ago published the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and on the failure of Messrs. Constable and Co. the publication of the *Edinburgh Review* passed into his hands. Mr. Black was a Dissenter, a member, we believe, of the Rev. D. Alexander's Church (Congregational), and ill lately an active member of the Liberal party.

A Good Templars' demonstration was held recently in the Glasgow City Hall, at which the chairman, the Rev. George Gladstone, said that there were something like 230,000 men and women Good Templars in England; there were some 50,000 in the Principality of Wales alone, and a similar number in Scotland; and there were 12,000 or upwards in Ireland; making altogether not less than 340,000 Good Templars in good standing in the United Kingdom.

A deputation consisting chiefly of representatives from the English and Scottish Trades Unions waited upon Mr. Gladstone on Wednesday to urge the equalisation of the county and borough franchises. Amongst the speakers were Mr. Lambert, M.P., Mr. Cowen, M.P., and Mr. Joseph Arch. The right hon. gentleman asked whether the desire for the extension of household suffrage to counties was connected exclusively with any particular party, or was there a general demand for it. He was assured that the working men asked for the franchise independently of any political party. Mr.

Gladstone, whilst believing that an extension of the franchise would give additional strength to the constitution, pointed out the importance of public opinion being fully matured on such a question, which he was anxious to see dealt with apart from political controversies.

At a meeting of the friends of the Rev. Dr. Hayman, held at Rugby on Friday, it was resolved to form a committee to consider the legality of the governing body of Rugby School in dismissing him from the head-mastership, and to open a public subscription to defray the necessary costs.

The investigation of the charge of conspiracy against Mr. Halliday and other trade-unionists was resumed by the Burnley magistrates on Saturday. Mr. Hopwood, in his address to the bench for the defence, contended that there was no evidence to connect the defendants with a conspiracy that was unlawful. What they had done was simply to assist the men to return to Cornwall who had represented they were not under contracts or that their contracts had been broken by their masters. The bench decided that there was no case against three of the defendants, and therefore discharged them. Mr. Halliday and six other defendants were committed for trial at the ensuing Manchester assizes on the charge of conspiracy. Bail was accepted.

The Tichborne trial proceeds. Mr. Hawkins, Q.C., is expected to conclude his reply on the whole case to-day, and to-morrow the Lord Chief Justice Cockburn will commence his summing-up.

On Friday Mr. Whalley appeared to answer for the contempt he had committed in his letter respecting Luic. Mr. Morgan Lloyd, his counsel, said he was instructed to offer the fullest apology, and an affidavit was put in, stating that Mr. Whalley had only given the letter for publication to the editor of the *Peterborough Times*, who on his own authority had sent slips to the London papers. The hon. gentleman protested that his sole object was to vindicate himself with his constituents. The court sentenced Mr. Whalley to pay a fine of 250*l.*, and be imprisoned until the amount was paid. The hon. member having refused to pay the fine, he was taken away in custody, and taken to Holloway Prison. On Saturday his sister paid the 250*l.*, and Mr. Whalley was released.

Mr. Albert Grant has informed the Metropolitan Board of Works of his intention to purchase and reclaim Leicester-square, with a view to presenting it to the public. Negotiations with the proprietors have been going on for several months, and plans have been prepared for the adornment of the square, which is expected to be ready by the middle of June. It was referred to the works committee to consider in what terms this munificent gift should be acknowledged.

At a special meeting of the Dublin Corporation yesterday, presided over by the Lord Mayor, the following motion was unanimously adopted:—"That a petition be presented to Parliament based on the resolutions adopted at the recent Home Rule Conference in Dublin, and that it be presented to the new Parliament when assembled."

The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's on Monday threw open to the public use a space surrounding the Cathedral, comprising an area of 7,000 square feet, and purchased by the Corporation of the City of London for the sum of £15,000.

At the coal market on Monday a large arrival of cargoes was reported, and to effect sales a further reduction of 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton from the highest point quoted on Friday was submitted to. The merchants' price for best Wallsend has been reduced to 33*s.* At many of the collieries in the north there has been a considerable reduction in prices.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. JAMES SANGSTER.—At the Crystal Palace, on Thursday, the 8th inst., an interesting gathering took place of the agents, travellers, and employees connected with the well-known publishing firm of Sangster and Co., 31, Paternoster-row, for the purpose of presenting to James Sangster, Esq., the principal of the firm, a beautiful and costly silver tea and coffee service and salver, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to James Sangster, Esq., by his agents, travellers, and employees in Great Britain and America, to celebrate the happy event of his fiftieth birthday, and to show their high regard for his personal worth, his business enterprise, and his thoughtful and valued friendship." The presentation was made in the presence of numerous friends, by a gentleman from the north of England (who had been connected with the firm for nearly a quarter of a century), sustained by others from various parts of the kingdom. Mr. Sangster acknowledged the testimonial in a few choice and feeling words. The service had been subscribed for by forty or fifty friends, almost all of them engaged in the business of the firm.

ANTIQUITY OF CHESS.—Before the first stone of the Egyptian pyramids was laid; before the Ptolema of the Greeks, and the Latrunculi of the Romans were thought of, Chaturanga, the primeval chess of the Hindus, had for centuries been the cherished pastime in India. Even that limited branch of chess, of which the book before us is an illustration—"Chess Problems or End-Games"—was practised in Arabia and Persia as early, probably, as the sixth century. We know that these subtleties were a source of delight to the renowned Haroon-Rasheed, and, curiously enough, one of the oldest on record is the composition of his son, Mutasim Billah.—*Athenæum*.

TO THE ELECTORS OF BRADFORD.

GENTLEMEN,—

The sudden Dissolution of Parliament devolves upon me the painful duty of announcing to you that it is not my intention to solicit your suffrages at the pending General Election.

Most, if not all of you, will have been made aware that some few weeks ago I informed Sir Titus Salt, the Chairman of my Election Committee in 1869, that the state of my health was such as to preclude all expectation of my being able to encounter the excitement and fatigue of an electoral contest for so important a borough as that of Bradford, and that, while willing to continue my service as Member to the close of the present Parliament, I should then be obliged to retire from the honourable post in which you had placed me.

A meeting, fairly representative, as I was told, of the majority by which my return was carried in my absence five years ago, having been convened to consider the decision I had announced, did me the singular honour of passing a resolution, requesting me to suspend for awhile my determination in the hope that improved health might justify me in once again offering myself as a Candidate for the borough. I am grieved to say that I am still physically unequal to the requisite exertion, and think it imperative upon me not to attempt it.

Gentlemen, I take leave of you with feelings of regret I find it impossible adequately to express.

In doing so, I cannot forbear placing on record my high appreciation of the honour you did me in calling me to your service. I cordially thank you for the courtesy with which you have invariably treated me since I was elected your Member—courtesy, the exhibition of which has not by any means been confined to my political friends. I am deeply indebted to you for the indulgent forbearance you have exercised in respect of my shortcomings. I trust I may retain your good opinion to the end of my days, and I am sure that, under any circumstances, I shall gratefully and affectionately cherish the remembrance of the relation in which I have stood to so intelligent, influential, and warm-hearted a constituency.

I am, Gentlemen,

Most faithfully yours,

EDWARD MIALI.

Welland House, Forest Hill, S.E.

Jan. 24, 1874.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The Nonconformist has arranged for SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE from all parts of the United Kingdom with a view to supply special and accurate information of the various contests, and to give adequate prominence to all Electoral Movements bearing on the questions of Religious Equality and National Education. Published on WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. Price Fivepence.

* The Five Numbers, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 25, will be sent by post on the receipt of Two Shillings in stamps to W. R. Willcox, 18, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, E.C.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE PATRONAGE and CONTROL, held on Monday, the 26th of January, 1874, it was RESOLVED:—

1. That this committee having considered the address of the Prime Minister to his constituents, announcing the dissolution of the present Parliament, feel constrained to express the conviction that, in so far as regards the principles of religious equality, that address is, both from its omissions and the vagueness of its statements, altogether unsatisfactory.

2. That this committee earnestly call upon the supporters and friends of the Liberation Society to adopt, and resolutely to pursue, such a course of action at the approaching General Election as will best advance their principles in connection with both Disestablishment and National Education.

The votes of M.P.s on ecclesiastical questions, with other information, may be obtained on application.

The Society's Electoral Committee sits daily.

J. CARVEIL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street.

THE TOWER HAMLETS NONCONFORMIST LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The Committee of the above have held two meetings during this week to consider the action to be adopted in consequence of the dissolution of Parliament. A strong expression of opinion was elicited that Mr. Gladstone had not fairly considered the position of Nonconformists in his recent address, and that the time had arrived for more active steps to be taken to advance the principles they consider of paramount importance. The claims of the various candidates were carefully considered, and deputations appointed to confer with Mr. Ayrton and Mr. Samuda to ascertain their opinion on the following points:—"The Education Act," "the Disestablishment Question," "the Burials Bill," "the opening of the Museums on Sunday," "the Licensing Question," and "Epping Forest." The report received from the deputation to Mr. Ayrton was deemed generally satisfactory, but Mr. Samuda held views out of sympathy with Nonconformists on the questions asked, except on the "Burials Bill." The Committee, having determined by resolution twelve months since, not to support the candidature of any one connected with the "Liquor Traffic," precluded the possibility of entertaining Mr. Currie.

Captain Maxse, by his advocacy of the opening of the "Museums" on Sunday, and his sympathies in favour of "Home Rule," precluded a consideration of his name.

The Committee, after careful consideration, passed the following resolution:—"That, under the circumstances in which we are now placed, and having regard to the interests of the 'Liberal Party,' it is deemed advisable to urge upon all their friends the support of the old members, Messrs. Ayrton and Samuda."

They also believe it to be a "false policy" for any Liberal elector to abstain from voting on the ground that the old members are not in sympathy with them on all points, and would, therefore, urge that on the day of election each Liberal should feel it a duty incumbent on him to exercise his franchise.

THOMAS SCRUTTON, Chairman.
R. GLADDING, Vice-Chairman.
J. THOMAS, B.A., } Hon. Secs.
E. J. BOON, }

THE NONCONFORMISTS AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The London Nonconformist Committee having met to consider the duty devolving on them in consequence of the Dissolution of Parliament, and having carefully read the Address of Mr. Gladstone, desire to record their surprise and regret that the questions affecting religious equality are so generally ignored, and that on the only subject of this class to which reference is made—viz., the Elementary Education Act, 1870—the statements are vague and unsatisfactory.

They consider that the failure of the Prime Minister to recognise the just claims of Nonconformists in the programme now placed before the country makes it incumbent on Nonconformists to take steps for the assertion of their views, and, wherever possible, to obtain candidates who will represent their principles irrespective of political parties in the New Parliament.

To this end they strongly urge on the Metropolitan constituencies the propriety of eliciting from candidates a promise to support those alterations in the Education Act which, in the judgment of this Committee, are necessary—viz., the abolition of the 25th Clause, the universal establishment of School Boards with a Board School in each district, and compulsory attendance. It is also desirable that the opinions of candidates should be ascertained on questions of religious equality. They recommend that, should the answers not be satisfactory, the advisability of securing candidates favourable to the principles of this Committee be carefully considered, and that the suddenness of the demand which has been made on the electors should not be allowed to interfere with the performance of this important and paramount duty.

JAMES HEYWOOD, Chairman of the London Nonconformist Committee.

JAMES SPICER, Treasurer.

THOMAS SCRUTTON;

H. R. ELLINGTON,

T. CHATFIELD CLARKE,

F. J. HARTLEY,

JOHN SOUTHGATE,

ALBERT SPICER,

J. GUINNESS ROGERS,

JOHN EDMOND,

S. H. BOOTH,

Vice Chairmen.

Hon. Secretaries.

JOSEPH SHAW, Acting Secretary.

London Nonconformist Committee, Jan. 26, 1874.

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(Three miles from Coventry Station.)

This Institution was established in 1848, and presents the following claims:—

Ample space, and elaborate provision for domestic comfort, in a house of sixty rooms.

A large area of park, a gymnasium, bathroom, and systematic drill for physical training. Workshops, laboratory, and art studio.

Moral suasion and equity the sole basis of rule. Religious catholicity.

A thorough education in Latin and Greek, optional; in French and German, mathematics, chemistry, mechanics, and vegetable and animal physiology.

Every boy is, as far as practicable, trained to clear and rapid writing, quick and accurate arithmetic, and English composition.

Time economised, interest excited, and progress facilitated by the most approved methods of teaching and study.

Nearly sixty students hold the University certificates, twenty have the Oxford title, and three have matriculated at the London University, in the first division, and many hold lucrative public offices.

Allesley Park, whilst it amply provides for classical studies, presents peculiar advantages to students designed for manufactures, commerce, or agriculture.

The terms, which are very inclusive, are from 40 to 50 guineas per year.

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The terms for this school are 30 guineas a-year to ten years of age.

Full prospectuses, with ample reference, examination papers, forms of entry, and other papers, may be had of the Director, THOMAS WYLES, F.G.S., Allesley, near Coventry.

AMERSHAM HALL SCHOOL, CAVERSHAM, NEAR READING.

Head Master—Mr. WEST.

Vice-Master—Mr. ALFRED S. WEST, M.A., Gold Medalist of the University of London; M.A., Senior Moralist, Cambridge; late of Trin. Coll., Camb., Fellow of University Coll., London.

And Seven other Masters, Five of whom are Resident.

The course of instruction is such as to fit Pupils either for the learned professions or for a business career, for which the great majority are intended.

Candidates were first sent up from this School to matriculate late at the University of London in 1849. Since that date ONE HUNDRED AND NINE have passed, of whom 34 took Honours. The Exhibitions for the first, second, and third, Candidates have each been gained once, and Prizes five times, since 1865.

The Gilchrist Scholarship of £50, tenable for three years, has been obtained SEVEN times out of nine awards; and Entrance Exhibitions at University College, London, four times.

Other Scholars have been successfully prepared for entrance a Trinity College, Cambridge, for the University Local Examinations, and for the Preliminary Examinations of the Incorporated Law Society and the Royal College of Surgeons.

The NEXT TERM will commence on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21st. The payment, made in advance for the Board and Tuition of a Pupil

Above 12 years of age, is £22 per Term.

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THE GENERAL ELECTION.

TO NONCONFORMIST ELECTORS.

Mr. Gladstone adheres to the educational policy pursued by the Government during the last four years—a policy which violates the principles of religious equality, and is hostile to the interests of national education. At a meeting of the Nonconformist Committees of London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham, held at Crewe on Tuesday, January 27th, it was unanimously resolved, "That it is the immediate duty of all who desire to restore union and vigour to the Liberal party to insist that all Candidates they support should declare themselves opposed to the further development of the Denominational system of education, and that such candidates should therefore be asked to pledge themselves to vote (1) for the abolition of the 25th Clause of the Elementary Education Act of 1870; and (2) for refusing Parliamentary grants to new denominational schools." It was further resolved that this conference recommends that Nonconformists should give no aid to candidates who decline to accept the foregoing pledge, inasmuch as the temporary triumph of the Liberal party would be dearly bought by infidelity to Liberal principles. Nonconformists, be faithful to the great cause and religious equality, and refuse your support to candidates who do not pledge themselves to resist the development of a system which is giving the control of our elementary schools to the clergy of the Established Church at a time when the sacerdotal pretensions of a large section of that Church are provoking the utmost distrust, hostility, and indignation!

TO ADVERTISERS.

The Terms for Advertising in THE NONCONFORMIST are as follows:—

One Line A Shilling.
Each additional Line Sixpence.

There are, on an average, eight words in a line.

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For Situations Wanted, five lines s. d.
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A Liberal Reduction made on a Series for Educational and all other Advertisements.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"THOMAS ROBERTS."—Deferred.

* In consequence of the unexpected pressure of electoral matter, we are compelled to omit several items of religious intelligence which would otherwise have appeared.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1874.

SUMMARY.

THANKS to the totally unexpected dissolution of Parliament, we have been living under such high pressure during the last few days, that the brilliant pageant of the royal marriage at St. Petersburg, though solemnised only on Friday last, has well nigh passed out of public recollection. The spectacle appears to have been as imposing as the unlimited resources of the most magnificent Court of Europe could make it, and the Czar himself regarded the event as important enough to be notified by himself to his subjects. Such a wedding is not without its drawback to the young couple who on Friday were united first according to the Greek rite, and next by the Anglican form of service. They have been allowed a very short respite of quiet enjoyment, and will then have to endure the fatigues of public fêtes and receptions at St. Petersburg and Moscow. Soon after the election excitement has somewhat subsided, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh will sojourn for awhile in England to receive the congratulations of Queen Victoria and her subjects.

It was on Saturday that the Prime Minister announced to his constituents, in the remarkable address given elsewhere, that Parliament would be immediately dismissed. The formal act of dissolution was decided upon at a Privy Council on Monday, when the new Parliament was summoned to meet on March 5. This will probably be the shortest and sharpest general election within living memory. It has taken all parties by surprise, and there has been enormous difficulty in finding candidates. But the lists are fast filling up, and there are apparently few boroughs of consequence where Liberal seats will be uncontested. In none of the metropolitan constituencies, as it now appears, will the late members have a walk over. The earliest nominations will take place on Friday; the earliest polls on Wednesday or Thursday next; and it appears probable that most of the borough elections will be over by the end of the succeeding week. So far as we can judge, the proportion of candidates of advanced views on ecclesiastical questions is unusually large, and from the news sent by our correspondents, we gather that such questions, though ignored by the Prime Minister, will come to the front during the contests now proceeding.

The elections being the all absorbing questions of the hour, a very large proportion of our space this week is necessarily devoted to it. We have endeavoured to give as accurately as is possible, a list of candidates, so far as is known,

with such "notes" of the pending elections and information, from special correspondents in various parts of the country, as will, we trust, inform and guide such of our readers as need assistance. If they feel but moderate interest in Mr. Disraeli's clever, but not very conclusive rejoinder to the Premier's manifesto, they will hardly fail to observe that Mr. Forster at Bradford has given his own personal, but we hope not official interpretation of Mr. Gladstone's remarks on the education question. The right hon. gentleman will not surrender, or apparently even consent to modify, the 25th Clause of the Act; and it becomes evident that if re-elected, he will owe his seat far more to the votes of Tories than of Liberals and Nonconformists. The effect of his speech outside that borough will be seen in the decided resolutions adopted at the representative meeting of Nonconformist associations held yesterday at Orewé. We give also the resolution adopted, and circular issued by, the executive committee of the Liberation Society, and expressions of opinion from other bodies. We observe that Mr. Stansfeld, in his published address to his constituents at Halifax, says on the education question: "I am not so sanguine as to suppose that their views and mine are likely immediately to prevail; but I do look forward confidently to progress on this question in the next Parliament; and, whether in or out of office, I shall do what I can to insure for these views the greatest practicable success." This is not very reassuring; but perhaps Mr. Gladstone will throw further light on the subject in his address at Blackheath this afternoon. Some very serviceable and practical information on the topics especially interesting to the friends of religious equality will be found in the letter of "An Old Campaigner."

We publish elsewhere an address from the committee of the Peace Society bearing on the present election, to which we would invite attention.

Mr. Kirk, of Zanzibar, and Sir Samuel Baker at the meeting of the Geographical Society on Monday expressed their disbelief of the intelligence of Dr. Livingstone's death. Unhappily all doubt of the fact is now removed by direct news from the relief expedition. The veteran explorer died of dysentery on the 15th of August near Unyanyembe, after a fortnight's illness brought on by crossing a marshy country with the water for three hours at a time above the waist. His remains are in possession of Lieutenant Cameron and his party, who also have suffered many hardships, and were expected at Zanzibar in February.

The news relative to the Ashantee war is not important. Sir Garnet Wolseley's little army was by the last accounts marching towards the Prah, but its movements were greatly impeded by the scarcity of labour—the Fantees being utterly worthless as carriers. Part of the troops would for that reason, it was expected, be unable to take part in the expedition to Coomassie. Envoys from the King, who appears to be in entire ignorance of the formidable nature of the invasion, had appeared at the British headquarters, and have returned to Coomassie; and it is believed that Sir Garnet will hear of no settlement till he has arrived at the capital; when very moderate terms of peace would be proposed. The roads in advance were being explored, and the line of march was said to be favourable; the interior being much more healthy than the coast. Apparently an obstinate resistance to Sir Garnet's little army is expected.

DISHING THE RADICALS.

CONCERNING the very remarkable strategic movement just executed by Her Majesty's Ministry it seems impossible, in view of its startling suddenness, to avoid coming to one of two conclusions. Either there must have been in the Cabinet some dissension which threatened immediate explosion, and made instant dissolution preferable to the prospect of meeting a moribund Parliament with ill-concealed discord in the Ministerial ranks; or else Mr. Gladstone has so little confidence in the strength and union of the Liberal party that he has no hope of victory unless by appealing to coarse material interests, and doing this in so sudden a manner as to allow no time for reflection. Mr. Disraeli appears to be perfectly justified in his assertion that the dissolution of a Parliament in the interval between the summons for despatch of business and its actual meeting is altogether unprecedented. It is difficult or impossible to account for it on any other assumption than one of the alternatives suggested. Either the Ministry itself has been surprised to find the extent of its own internal discords; or else the Premier has been deliberately of opinion that

the unreflecting hurry and excitement into which he has surprised the country give the best chance of temporary reinvigoration to his government. Or it may be that both our hypotheses have in them some truth. For if dissension in the Cabinet has been caused by any inconvenient inclination of leading members towards religious equality and a really national education, we can all the more easily understand the unseemly haste with which literally golden promises are showered upon the British taxpayer, while no time is given him to consider whether even gold may not be bought too dear.

What are the political signs of the times? The pressure of rates and taxes is no doubt unpleasant, but it is not this which gives the greatest anxiety to any thoughtful Englishman in forecasting the future of his country. This is an evil which is sure to right itself in proportion as class interests are less concerned with public expenditure. The questions which cause most uneasiness at the present time are those which directly or indirectly affect social order. The stupendous contrasts of princely wealth and abject destitution, the intolerable burden of pauperism, which is not merely a reproach and a scandal, but a deadly cancer eating out the moral strength of the people, the discontent of labour, the uneasiness of capital, the oppressions of amateur justice, the disgraceful sacrifice of agricultural progress and peasant morality to the sports of the rich, the plague of ignorance, the priestly or sectarian bondage which keeps popular instruction down to the lowest level consistent with any pretence of education, such, to say nothing of the great principle of religious equality, are some of the questions nearest to the hearts of those for whom the moral and spiritual welfare of the people appears to be the highest aim of politics. And it is undeniable, it is notorious, that the most thorough-going and consistent supporters of the Gladstone Administration at its outset were those to whom such questions have a far higher interest than any exploits of financial genius. When have their just expectations been completely satisfied? If they heartily supported the Irish Church Act it was not because they approved the re-endowment of an independent Protestant sect, but because they did not wish to embarrass by a refusal of all compromise the first great example of disestablishment. The Irish Land Act, doubtless, commanded a more ungrudging sympathy than the former measure; but even in this, advanced political economists pointed out unfair concessions to landlord interests. The Ballot Act is very like the play of *Hamlet* with *Hamlet* left out. Far more trouble was taken to ensure the possibility of identifying the voters than to secure that inviolable secrecy without which it is a sham. If such imperfections in the development of a promising policy were at the time passed over in comparative silence, it was because the most earnest Liberals reflected that Rome was not built in a day; and because they looked with ever fainter confidence for an onward movement in the lines of advance which had thus been traced. But it is vain to deny now that such Liberals have been entirely deceived and betrayed. Their protests against the revival of the church-rate in the form of a school-rate have been rejected with studied insult, or contemptuously treated as the petulance of children to whom a coating of sugar could disguise the bitterest pill. Their effort to obtain a Parliamentary discussion of the Establishment question was on one recent occasion most unfairly burked by the Prime Minister himself, and a snatch division was hastily taken when it was known that they would be caught at a disadvantage. In another direction the complaints made by trades unionists of special legislation which they maintain to be needless and unfair have never received any very serious attention until the moment when a vague reference may affect a general election. These and other sources of discontent had so hampered and disheartened all Liberal organisations that election after election was lost. And on the other hand the Government itself had been so shaken by the failure of its attempts to bribe the Irish hierarchy at the expense of enlightened education, that the prospects of a new session with the same Parliament may well have appeared gloomy in the extreme.

Something had to be done; that alone was clear. But while we of course accept Mr. Forster's assurance that there was no "quarrel" in the Cabinet, we can hardly understand how opinions like his on the one hand, and Mr. Bright's on the other could meet in confidential conclave without some semblance of the phenomena ordinarily associated with vinegar and nitre. The germs of disagreement often sufficiently prove the hopelessness of united action long before there is anything like a "quarrel." And now the financial year was

far enough advanced to make a magnificent surplus certain. What if the income-tax, that frequent theme, second only to the weather in the favour of the British grumbler, should be suddenly abolished? But that could hardly come on till April in the ordinary course of things; and what might not happen before then? Besides, if the thing had been already done before the dissolution, what would remain as a rallying cry save only the hated watchwords of sour Nonconformists and acrid Birmingham Leaguers? If on the other hand the already summoned Parliament were sent about its business, or rather dismissed from business altogether, then the abolition of the odious tax might descend like a bolt from the clear sky upon "Conservative reaction," and like a blazing beacon to the scattered Ministerial forces. Where is the British tradesman, however obtuse to the charms of eloquence, who can be deaf to the permanent gain of a clear threepence in the pound on his income? Where is the high-flown philosopher whose ideal visions are not perturbed by the sad memory of departed sixpences sunk in "the vast and wandering grave" of national finance? Where is the sanguinary revolutionist or republican, who when he considers butchers' prices will not cry, "Hurrah for Gladstone, and threepence in the pound"? Great is the breeches pocket; and popular ever are its prophets. Thus the income-tax goes down, and, to quote a Conservative master of language, the Radicals are "dished."

Be it so. We had hoped better things; but we can wait. Great principles taught by a great statesman ought to bear higher fruit than mere financial measures. And they will, even in spite of himself. We do not allude to the exceedingly vague and doubtful mention made, in the Greenwich address, of the land and game laws, or of the relations between employer and employed. Still less do we form the slightest hope from the strange and ill-judged reference to the Premier's liking for the earlier rather than the later "adjustments" of the Education Act. But it does appear to us that a Parliament, capable of facing the undoubtedly bold and expedient financial policy just announced, must contain many members who will insist on applying Liberal principles to higher issues. Nor need the friends of religious equality fear, that in pressing their views wherever they have the opportunity at the pending elections, they will run any risk of materially lessening the majority ensured by Mr. Gladstone's pecuniary offers. The man who destroyed sectarian supremacy in Ireland ought to know he can as little restrain his work to one part of the empire as he could stay the Atlantic tide on the west from rising in the Irish Channel as well. The man who has acknowledged the galling ignominy of religious subjection in the case of Irish Papists ought to know that the millions in England now forced by school boards to pay for dogmas they abjure, or for a travesty of religion which they scorn, will in time demand the extension of the same sympathy to them. And if he does not; at any rate, the men who do will be, not worse, but better supporters than any others of the financial proposals with which the new Parliamentary campaign is to open. We do not wish to hamper the Ministry. The appeal to the breeches-pocket finds us as susceptible as other mortals. But, after all, we trust that when the income-tax is gone there will be voices in Parliament to insist that a nation's life does not consist, any more than a man's, "in the abundance of the things it possesseth."

THE DEATH OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.

IT is with feelings of the most poignant and profound sorrow that we are obliged to chronicle, in our present number, the death of Dr. Livingstone. The news will go like the shock of a bolt of ice throughout the civilised world. We all had a personal attachment to the great African discoverer. His undaunted courage, his simplicity, and purity of character, his Christian chivalry, his grand purpose have elevated him to the highest pinnacle of fame, and won for him the attachment of his fellow-men wherever his name has been known. And now, just as his life-long labour was drawing to a close, and we expected to welcome him once more amongst us, he has been stricken down, and we shall see his face no more. Like Park and Clapperton, and Overweg, he has fallen a martyr to science: he, who appeared to possess a charmed life, and upon whom neither disease, nor hunger, nor privation, nor labour, seemed to have any effect. While rejoicing in his work, how can we do otherwise than bitterly deplore his end?

We do not yet know what Dr. Livingstone has been doing since Mr. Stanley left him, but

the probability is that he had finished the task that he had proposed to himself. He was on his way back to Unyanyembe, and from thence, probably, intended to go on to Zanzibar and then to come to England. He might, therefore, have been amongst us in a few weeks, but the ship that would have conveyed him will now bring only those remains of which death has taken possession—honoured remains, and such as will doubtless receive the highest expression of honour that it is possible for man to bestow upon what was once his fellow man.

What a life has this man lived! Talk of heroism being extinct; here was a hero, compared with whom the heroes of Greece and Rome were shadows. His life is all before us with its suffering and joy, its endurance and its hopes. We know where amongst us he was born—at Blantyre, and how, at ten years of age, he began life as a piecer in a cotton factory. We see his indomitable determination to make himself a scholar by his taking his Latin books to study at odd minutes while working the spinning jenny. Many in Glasgow must remember his attendance on the medical and Greek classes at the University, and on Dr. Wardlaw's divinity lectures—work undertaken in order that he might qualify himself to be a medical missionary. It is now more than thirty-three years since he first landed in Africa, as a missionary of the London Missionary Society, and during the whole of that period he has devoted himself to the regeneration of that great but fallen country. His first expedition was to South Africa, where he joined Mr. Moffat and connected himself with the natives north of the Boer settlements. He was not even then, however, a man who could stand still. He soon formed the project of crossing the Kalahara Desert, in order to find Lake Ngami. This great lake was his first discovery, and for this the Royal Geographical Society awarded him half the royal premium. Two or three subsequent journeys in different directions resulted in the discovery of the Zambesi, which, as a late writer has said, is "the key of Southern and Central Africa." From this, having accomplished important work connected with his missionary labours, he set out from the very centre of Africa to the West Coast, and accomplished the whole distance. It was in this journey that Dr. Livingstone saw the horrors of the slave-trade, and its corrupting and destroying influence upon the native Africans. Here it was, also, that he conceived the idea of crossing the continent from west to east—a feat that no traveller had ever before proposed, even in his wildest imagination. That journey, too, he performed, and in 1866 arrived in England, after nearly thirteen years' travel.

It is some consolation to us to recollect how he was received on that visit, both by the Christian men who especially honoured his Christian work, and the men of science who delighted in welcoming him as the greatest of modern discoverers. He could not stay in England; he wanted to explore the Zambesi, in order to ascertain its precise value to the continent for commercial, civilising, and religious purposes. He stayed amongst us, therefore, only fifteen months, and then sailed for the East Coast. We find him soon at Lake Nyassa and Victoria Falls, then going on year after year with his explorations, which he continued down to 1864, buried the whole time, for the most part, from the knowledge of civilised man.

Of the journey just referred to we know the details, but of the next and last great journey we know nothing, excepting from Mr. Stanley. Livingstone now proposed to himself to continue his exploration of the Zambesi, and to explore the sources of the Nile. He made his way to Zanzibar for this purpose, and struck at once into the interior, visiting once more Lake Nyassa, and thence through various countries, proceeding westward. In his course he discovered the Chambezi—another great river—and several smaller rivers, with, it is believed, lakes almost without number. Some of these he has named—such as Lake Lincoln, in honour of President Lincoln. Six years, until 1871, he travelled through this district south and north of the Equator, until the world believed that he could not be alive, and but for Mr. Stanley we should now have been without the least knowledge, either of his work or of his condition during and immediately subsequent to that period. How Mr. Stanley discovered him is well known, but it is nearly two years since Mr. Stanley left him—still undaunted and still determined to complete the work which he had taken in hand. What he has been doing these two years we can only conjecture: we only know that he died near where Mr. Stanley bade him farewell, with the hope of meeting him, not long hence, in England or America. Once, he almost sorrowfully, said to Mr. Stanley, in reply to a quotation of some dis-

paraging remarks, "Alas! it has been a terrible, earnest fact with me; nothing but hard, conscientious work, privation, sickness, and almost death." And death has at last overcome him.

We cannot—no man can—estimate the value of Dr. Livingstone's labours. Human imagination is incapable of the task. We know that everywhere he has gone he has preached Christ crucified; we know that he has opened up a continent to ultimate intercourse with the world. It may be—it is most probable—that our descendants will see Africa more or less Christianised; her plains covered with produce; her rivers and lakes with ships, and the knowledge of God extended far and wide. If so, how many millions of unborn Africans will honour the name of Livingstone, while the people of every continent will pronounce him to have been one of the greatest benefactors whom the world has ever seen.

ELECTORAL NOTES.

THE temporary confusion caused by the sudden issue of the writs for the dissolution of the late Parliament seems to be already clearing away, although, unquestionably, great discontent, not to say anger, exists amongst members of both sides of the House, as well as amongst their constituents, in consequence of the sudden demand that has been made upon them. The constituencies are given no time to select better candidates, and there is little opportunity for making prominent many questions which should receive the consideration of the electors. It is to be questioned whether a Parliament elected under such unprecedented pressure, whatever may be its character, will fairly represent the opinions of the electors. Many persons will vote for men for whom they did not intend to vote again, and solely in consequence of the absence of a better candidate; while many others will assuredly abstain from voting because they are not able to exercise the franchise with conscientious satisfaction to themselves. In these "Notes" we can give only leading features, and as information varies from hour to hour, it may be found that, in several cases, what has been stated has been supplanted. We take the constituencies in four orders—the City, the metropolitan burghs, the metropolitan counties, and the country generally.

THE CITY.

Four Liberal members have represented the City—Mr. Goschen, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Lawrence, and Baron Rothschild. Of these, Mr. Goschen has some claim upon the Nonconformists for his advocacy of the University Tests Bill, and Mr. Lawrence has once voted in favour of Mr. Miall's motion; but neither Mr. Crawford nor Baron Rothschild have much claim upon the Nonconformist vote; and it is extremely probable that one, if not two, of the Liberal members will succumb to Mr. Cotton, Mr. Hubbard, or Mr. Twells, who are on the Conservative "ticket."

THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGHS.

The seats of Sir Charles Dilke and Sir H. Hoare at Chelsea are not seriously threatened, and every effort should be made to retain them in the face of the two Conservative candidates who have put themselves forward in opposition. At Finsbury, so far as appears at present, Mr. Torrens and Mr. Alderman Lusk (Lord Mayor) are likely to win an unopposed battle. If there should be a contest, Mr. Alderman Lusk should unquestionably be supported, even at the risk of losing the other Liberal seat. At Hackney Mr. Charles Reed and Mr. Holms are at present the only candidates. Mr. Reed is comparatively the only one worth voting for. At Lambeth Sir John Lawrence and Mr. McArthur have both well discharged their duties, and we should be sorry to see any change in the representation in consequence of the apathy of the Liberal party. Certainly Mr. Morgan Howard—a bigoted Conservative—is the last man who should be elected for such a borough. We could wish better members for Marylebone than they are likely to have. Mr. Harvey Lewis retires, and there are four Liberal candidates and one Tory ditto. Sir Thomas Chambers will probably retain his seat, and Mr. Thomas Hughes may probably be his coadjutor. Neither is worth anything on questions of religious equality. At Southwark Mr. John Locke has been only a nominal Liberal. Sir Francis Lycett's politics are rather undefined, but of Mr. Andrew Dunn we have no doubt, and in him we have all confidence. It is said that Mr. Odger is to contest this constituency. Mr. Ayrton will have a hard fight to secure his re-election for the Tower Hamlets, and Mr. Samuda has not been a better Liberal than his colleague. Captain Maxse might represent the borough if he has the organisation necessary to secure his return. Otherwise, we may see a Tory elected in Mr. Ayrton's place. On the whole, a review of the City and metropo-

litan constituencies points to the probability of a reduction in the Liberal power—but it will be such a reduction as will not affect the position of the religious equality party.

THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES.

The first of the metropolitan counties is Middlesex, for which Viscount Enfield, Lord George Hamilton, and Mr. Coope are contending. Viscount Enfield is a Whig Ministerialist, and certainly, with Mr. Gladstone's programme before us, nothing would be gained for Nonconformist rights by re-electing him. The probability points to the re-election of the present Tory member and of Mr. Coope as his coadjutor. In East Surrey Mr. Locke King has long needed looking up. He has dropped behind the present tendency; certainly, of ecclesiastical questions, and we are not yet sure whether Mr. H. Goschen, the new Liberal candidate, will be an improvement upon him. These two will be opposed by two Tories—the sitting member and another. We cannot yet tell whose votes are likely to do the most injury to measures connected with religious equality. In South Essex Mr. Wingfield Baker and Mr. Johnston have mis-represented the Nonconformists. They are to be opposed by two Tories, and will probably be left to take their chance, with a weight in favour of Mr. Johnston.

THE COUNTRY.

The metropolitan constituencies demanded a detailed notice; for in no part of England has there been such a serious want of support of the principles advocated in this journal as there has been in the City and the adjoining boroughs and counties. We cannot deal with the country at large in the same detail, but will select some especial points for notice. Take first the case of Abingdon, at present represented by a Conservative, whose seat is sought by Mr. Arnold. Mr. Arnold is a Liberal, but what sort of a Liberal? He will not go much beyond what has been done by the late Government or what is proposed to be done by Mr. Gladstone. The question at once arises, Does Mr. Gladstone represent the whole Liberal feeling of the country, and is everybody to be tied down to his programme? Why, there is scarcely a constituency in which candidates might not find that the electors are ahead both of Mr. Gladstone and his Cabinet. We are glad to see that Ashton-under-Lyne is to be contested by so good a Liberal as Mr. Abel Buckley; but there is Mr. Hugh Mason, and why does he not stand, if not for Ashton then not for Lancashire? Next, Barnstaple. Is there any good reason why Mr. Thomas Cave should be re-elected if a better Liberal can be found to supply his place? There is scarcely a candidate for Bath worth mentioning, and mere Whigs and Tories will have to fight the battle there with little help from others who have gone beyond the traditional line of politics. We regret to see that Mr. Stanley retires from Beaumaris, and we do not yet know of the relative merits of the two Radical candidates. The constituency here has the power to elect the most Radical, and we trust that they will exercise it. With still more regret we notice the retirement, because of ill-health, of Mr. James Howard from Bedford. He was a member upon whose sympathy and votes the utmost reliance could be placed, and was one of the few of those Wesleyan members of the House of Commons whose support was worth more than that of many other members. Cannot a proper successor to him be found? We ask, next, is Mr. Bassett to be re-elected for Bedfordshire? but we suppose that he will be, although he is utterly useless in the House of Commons. We ask, also, why Mr. Stapleton should be re-elected for Berwick. Could not a better candidate be found? or is it that there is no time? No opposition is started to the re-election of the three great Birmingham members, and no opposition would be successful. We do not care to see this representation changed. It is to be hoped that one of the two Liberals—the best—will succeed in wresting a seat from the Tories at Blackburn. He can probably do it if he is sufficiently pronounced. Probably, also, a better Liberal member for Bodmin might be found than the Hon. Leveson Gower, and we hope that a better will be found. Is Bolton really not to be contested by a Liberal? We can hardly believe it. Boston may go from one Tory member to Mr. Ingram—whom we should be glad to see in the House—but scarcely more than one seat could be gained. Of Bradford we can only say that we are glad that a thorough Liberal is likely to take the place of Mr. Miall, and express our hope that he will be returned at the head of the poll. Brighton could not be in better hands than it is at present, and the representation should be unchanged. We are sorry not to see Mr. E. S. Robinson's name as a candidate for Bristol; surely he would better represent the constituency than Mr. Hodgson? Mr. Morley, however, stands with our best wishes. The present members for Berks will probably be returned again; in fact, it is not likely that much change can take place in any of the county constituencies, and Mr. Disraeli will certainly hold his own. It is satisfactory to find that Mr. Shaw again contests Burnley, Mr. Phillips, Bury, and Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Calne. But Cambridge? Is it not possible to string up the present Liberal members, or must they succumb to Tories? Then Cardiganshire, is it still to be represented by Sir Thomas Lloyd, who certainly misrepresents the people on many questions. Mr. E. Potter, we regret to notice, retires from Carlisle, and we can only wish that one of the two Liberal candidates will adequately supply his place. Who is to succeed Sir J. Stepney in Carmarthenshire? and is Mr. W. B. Hughes still to represent the Carnarvon district? Is Mr. Otway,

also, not to be "strung up" at Chatham, for surely there is room? Mr. Samuelson has well represented Cheltenham, and Chester might do worse than elect Mr. Dodson, who retires from East Sussex. We owe a debt to Mr. Dodson on the University Tests question. Is Clitheroe still to be represented by a Conservative?—it ought not to be; and will not Mr. Fletcher, who sits for Cocker-mouth, be induced to vote instead of to absent himself from divisions? We shall miss the face of Sir John Trelawny for East Cornwall, and do not see how his place can be well supplied. A better member than Mr. Cadogan could surely be found for Cricklade, and Sir Thomas Acland should not pass muster for North Devon without severe scrutiny. Dewsbury, also, should be in advance of Mr. Serjeant Simon. Why is it not? It is to be hoped that Dover will return two good Liberals; if not the two Conservatives may as well keep their places. Mr. Sheridan has our best wishes for his success at Dudley; he is one of the best voters in the House of Commons. Mr. Bowring, of Exeter, is but a very moderate Liberal; must he be sent out by a Tory to improve his mind? The members for Glamorganshire should be looked after; they, too, are not what they should be for a Welsh constituency. Neither is Mr. Marling nor Colonel Kingscote for West Gloucestershire. But we should say the contrary for Sir C. Wingfield for Gravesend, and Mr. Onslow has well served us as member for Guildford. Halifax will probably re-elect Mr. Stansfeld, and with him we hope Mr. John Crossley, whom all Nonconformists will be delighted to see in the House of Commons. The Hastings constituency should really try and inform their members or get rid of them, but no such advice can be given in the case of Haverfordwest, so well represented by Lord Kensington, Huddersfield, so well represented by Mr. E. Leatham, or Hull, by Mr. Norwood. We ought, perhaps, to be satisfied with one good member for Ipswich—Mr. Adair, and leave the Whigs to choose the other. Is Whitwell's seat at Kendal in jeopardy? If so, the Liberal party in the House of Commons will lose but little. We hope that the new Liberal candidate for Knaresborough is as good as the old member, but our information upon that point is not yet sufficient. Is no Liberal to contest Launceston? and who is to succeed Mr. Harris at Leicester? Lord Pelham is not worth much at Lewes. Surely "here are opportunities"? There is also one at Liskeard, where there should be a hopeful chance of Mr. E. M'Arthur ousting that peculiar politician Mr. Horsman. Mr. Rathbone and Mr. Caine have our hopes for Liverpool, and we suppose that Mr. Lowe is inevitable at the London University. But this should not be the case with Mr. Brooklehurst at Macclesfield, nor Mr. Whatman nor Sir J. Lubbock at Maidstone. Sir J. Lubbock's ecclesiastical votes have disappointed every one in the character of the man. Maldon may find a fit, but not a better successor to Mr. Bentall, in Sir John Bennett, for Mr. Bentall was one of the best of Liberal members. Will Manchester return three Liberals? No, only two contest—and two Tories. Is this as it should be? No one can wish harder or longer than we do for Mr. Richard's second success at Merthyr, for is he not the member not only for all Wales, but for all of us? But Captain Tracy, of Montgomery, should be brought to book, and so should Mr. Bristow, of Newark, and—not least—Mr. Headlam, of Newcastle. Surely he is not the best accompaniment to Mr. Cowen? Mr. Burt, the mining workman's candidate for Morpeth, will be returned without our wishes; but if they were needed he would have them. Lord Henley is better than Bradlaugh who contests Northampton, but Sir W. Russell could be well missed at Norwich. Nottingham, also, should look after Mr. Seeley, who has been absent when he should have voted; and Oldham, we hope, will elect Mr. Lyulph Stanley, whoever may go out. Peterborough is in the strange position of having seven Radical candidates—two of whom, Mr. Neville Goodman and Mr. George Potter, are hearty supporters of religious equality. In that contest we do not interfere; but is no word to be said to Mr. Childers at Pontefract, to Mr. Stone at Portsmouth, or to Mr. Shaw Lefevre at Reading? And, is the Marquis of Hartington—"Mrs. Partington"—to be actually re-elected, or to go to the House of Lords, or anywhere else, rather than Radnor? Sir F. Goldsmid has well represented Reading, better than Mr. Shaw Lefevre, but that Mr. Lefevre is obliged to vote with the Ministry. And Sandwich! Surely Mr. Hugesen and Mr. Brassey are not the only two Liberals who could contest it against two Tories—two Liberals of the colour of the "milk-white fawn." And Scarborough? No better Liberal candidates than Mr. Dent and Sir H. Johnstone? Shame! We shall also miss—how much! Mr. Hadfield's face; but the venerable member is compelled to retire from Sheffield. Mr. Chamberlain is his fitting successor. Stroud should see two much better members than either its Tory or its Liberal, and so should Taunton than either of its Liberals. Mr. Stephenson at South Shields, Mr. Buckley at Staleybridge, Mr. Roden and Mr. Melly at Stoke, have our heartiest wishes. We see Mr. Candlish's retirement from Sunderland with sorrow, and trust that a better and more reliable successor to him may be found than Sir Henry Havelock, whose name is his only recommendation. Mr. Dillwyn will, of course, win Swansea, and fitly so, but what of Mr. Forster at Walsall, and Mr. Peel at Warwick? Are they

not "weak-kneed" men? Mr. Smith for Tyne-mouth, Mr. Price for Tewkesbury and Mr. Rylands for Warrington—we do not ask for better candidates—nor than Mr. Brogden for Wednesbury, Mr. Brown for Wenlock, Mr. Villiers and Mr. Weguelin for Wolverhampton, Mr. T. R. Hill for Worcester—an old friend not yet in the House, but who we hope will be in—Mr. Leeman for York, Mr. Beaumont for the South-West Riding, and Mr. Wilson for the North-West Riding.

As regards Scotland we see but little change, and nothing that is likely to make any; and time has not been given to bring up ecclesiastical questions that should have been brought up at their general election.

Some members, it will be seen, we are certain to miss from the next House, and with regret—Mr. Howard, Mr. Hadfield, and Mr. Candlish.

Working men's candidates are few. Mr. Burt is the only one pretty certain to succeed. Besides him we notice Mr. George Howell, Mr. Odger, Mr. Hardaker, Mr. Bradlaugh, and Mr. Potter. There are probably one or two others.

THE GENERAL ELECTION AND PEACE.

ADDRESS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE PEACE SOCIETY.

The committee of the Peace Society trust that, notwithstanding the suddenness with which the announcement of a general election has come upon the country, the friends of peace and international arbitration may secure opportunities of bringing these important questions under the consideration of candidates and bodies of electors.

It has been very gratifying that in the Parliament just dissolved (owing, in some appreciable degree, as the committee venture to trust, to the past labours of this society) there was found a large and influential body of members desirous of promoting peace, especially in reference to its extension and maintenance by means of international arbitration. This was proved by the fact that one hundred members of the late House of Commons, forming a majority on the occasion, supported the motion carried by Mr. Henry Richard on July 8 last. The committee would remind their friends that those gentlemen (and also those who had expressed an intention of uniting with them, but who were unavoidably prevented from being present) have special claims upon the grateful remembrance of their constituencies.

It is, however, appropriate also to bear in mind that on several occasions during the existence of the late Parliament, motions introduced by some earnest advocates of peace and economy, as, for example, for a reduction of excessive armaments, were supported by much smaller minorities than the friends of peace had reason to expect.

An important opportunity now occurs for inviting distinct pledges from candidates in support of any well-devised measures of a pacific and economical tendency, which may be introduced into the ensuing Parliament. Valuable services may, at this juncture, be rendered either by addresses during the election or the interpellation of candidates, or by means of private correspondence and the local press.

Occasions like the present afford special opportunities for deriving practical lessons from the results of such lamentable and costly expeditions as the Abyssinian and Ashantee wars, which, the committee cannot but believe, might, with due care have been averted, to the saving of the lives of many brave Englishmen and of a larger number of African natives; not to dwell on the pecuniary burdens thereby devolved upon the already too heavily weighted taxpayers of this country.

The prospect of a remission of the income-tax (owing to a surplus revenue of several millions) is, so far, eminently satisfactory to the nation. But it may profitably be borne in mind by electors that by a greater increase of economy in armaments, and still more by the promotion of measures tending to render gradual and mutual disarmament practicable throughout Europe, far greater remissions of oppressive taxation, both at home and abroad, might be secured. Thus many millions now annually extorted from the toiling millions, to be thrown into the abyss of military expenditure, might be devoted to the diminution of poverty and misery and the extension of all manner of physical benefits and of moral and religious blessings.

The Peace Society is not a political propagandism. It has observed with deep and even religious thankfulness the eminently wise and pacific statesmanship of some of the leaders of each great political party, directed, and with much success, to efforts for the preservation of this country from disastrous complications with other nations, and to settle by means of a tribunal of arbitrators the once threatening and intricate dispute on the Alabama claims. Statesmanship of this nature has eminently tended to increase both the dignity and influence of Great Britain. Those legislators of either party who have aided such a praiseworthy policy possess reasonable claims for the continued and grateful support of their countrymen.

On an occasion like the present it becomes the duty of each one to avail himself of every opportunity for exerting a personal influence in securing, as far as possible, the election of a body of national representatives who, while avoiding any errors of the past, may steadfastly follow, in the future, those examples which wise and able statesmen have

given in the promotion of that "peace on earth and goodwill to men" which all right-minded persons must earnestly desire.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

Dr. Crotch's oratorio *Palestine*, composed in the year 1811, and last performed in its entirety in 1828, was revived last Friday evening at Exeter Hall. The libretto is selected from a prize poem written by Bishop Heber, in 1803, when a student at Oxford, apostrophising the city of Zion, and recounting its ancient glories and subsequent desolation; but while incomparably superior in a literary sense to the verbiage that was unfortunately supplied to Handel for many of his oratorios, the uniformity of its metre (the heroic), and, above all, the absence of dramatic form, place it at a great disadvantage as regards musical treatment, and especially as the subject of an oratorio. Taking these difficulties into consideration, there is the more to admire in the character of the music, abounding as it does in broad contrasts, and furnishing excellent examples of varied expression. Descriptive effect has perhaps been overdone here and there, as for instance in the introduction of a solitary note for the cymbals, as a literal illustration of the words "the cymbal clanged"; but taking it as a whole, it must be admitted that the composition is characterised by the dignity befitting the subject. Much of the music, especially in the choruses, which abound with fine examples of fugue writing, is Handelian in a marked degree; while, ever and anon, as in the duet, "Such the faint echo," and the air, "No more your thirsty rocks," the style, and more particularly the instrumentation, forcibly suggest a very close acquaintance with Haydn on the part of the composer. Here and there particular instruments are introduced *obbligato* with fine effect, as the trumpet in the first song, "Ye guardian saints," the oboe in the air, "E'en they who dragged," and the violin, flute, and oboe in the quartet, "Lo! star-led chiefs," while occasional and very effective use is made of the harp. But it is not our purpose to attempt an analysis of the work, nor an enumeration of its beauties; these few general remarks on its more prominent characteristics must suffice. The performance, which was conducted by Sir Michael Costa, was in every way worthy of the Sacred Harmonic Society, and in several instances fairly roused the enthusiasm of the audience. The solo music which was best received, was that allotted to the principal soprano, Madame Sherrington, and the bass, Signor Agnesi. Mr. Cummings was none the less conscientious and painstaking; but the tenor music, while exacting, is perhaps hardly as impressive. Miss Ellen Horne and Miss Julia Elton, as second soprano and contralto, rendered good service in the two short solos assigned them, and also in the concerted music, among which we must not omit to mention, the lovely quartet, "Be peace on earth," which, with its chorus, reminded us of the good old Psalm tunes which have been supplanted by the tame and lifeless things which have come into fashion in these latter days. The choruses were, with an occasional trifling exception, finely executed, and displayed the Society's magnificent resources to great advantage. *Elijah* is announced for Friday week, Feb. 6, with Madame Sherrington, Miss Sterling, Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. Santley as principal vocalists.

Sympathy with Germany in her anti-Ultramontane policy was the object of a meeting yesterday afternoon in St. James's Hall, the chair being taken, in the unavoidable absence of Earl Russell, by Sir John Murray, Bart., the Chairman of Committee of the Protestant National Institute. Among the more notable of those who took their places on the platform were the Dean of Canterbury, Lord A. Churchill, the Hon. A. Kinnsaird, Sir Robert Peel, Sir Thomas Chambers, Q.C., the Rev. W. Cadman, Colonel Macdonald, the Rev. Dr. Brock, the Rev. Thain Davidson, and Dr. Thompson, of Berlin. A long letter from Dean Stanley was read, in which, while withholding judgment on the Prussian legislation, he described the general principles upheld by the German Government as being in accordance with the policy which had led to the greatness of England.

NOTTINGHAM.—We understand that Mr. Passmore Edwards, a tried and advanced Liberal, who so gallantly fought Truro at the last election, is a Liberal candidate for Nottingham.

HITTING HARD.—A clergyman of Meriden, Connecticut, preached from the text, "Adam, where art thou?" and divided his discourse into three parts—first, all men are somewhere; second, some are where they ought not to be; and third, unless they mend their ways they will eventually find themselves where they'd rather not be.

AWKWARD MISPRINT.—What! are the few remaining Canons of Windsor to be disestablished and their incomes assigned to increase the present pittance of the Military Knights of St. George? The following cutting from an advertisement which appeared in the columns of the *Times* a few days back would seem to indicate the coming change:—"Required by the Hon and Rev. Canon Courtenay, No. 8, The Cloisters, Windsor Castle, a situation as butler and valet, &c. . . . Pity the sorrows of a poor old Canon.—*Broad Arrow*. [We suppose that the word "situation" ought to have been "man."]

Literature.

THE PERSECUTING PRINCIPLES OF THE WESTMINSTER STANDARDS.*

It has been ignorance—"sheer ignorance"—upon our part, but, until we read Dr. Marshall's book, we had no idea that the Westminster Standards—including the Confession and the Larger Catechism—were considered by any sane man of the present day other than persecuting. Just like the canons of the Established Church of this country, they were made by men who believed in persecution, loved it with all their heart and soul, considered that it was the first duty of a Christian to hate all other Christians, and who put what they did together in order to give expression to their nice feelings. Persecuting? Why the "Standards" reek with persecution. This, we can say, has never been otherwise than plain to us, but it seems that in Scotland men generally are of a different opinion. The "Standards" are the Mumbo Jumbos of all the Presbyterian sects, and woe be to him who dares to attack them! So Dr. Marshall, although himself a Presbyterian of the most orthodox stamp, has felt compelled to write this book. Through its pages he delivers his soul. He smites Mumbo Jumbo as Agag the Hittite was smitten, and great is the slaughter.

Rarely have we read a controversial book which has given us the pleasure that Dr. Marshall's has given us. Its style is a style to envy—clear, incisive, and logical, yet never heavy—indeed rather brisk than otherwise—lit up, from time to time with aly humour, but shading off, when occasion requires, to the thunders of indignant wrath. Notwithstanding that it is wholly on the Westminster Confession and catechism, with the Solemn League and Covenant thrown in, it is a book to be enjoyed, and a book besides that will do every "Voluntary's" heart good to read.

Dr. Marshall's introductory chapter states what work he has set himself to do. He informs us how the "Standards" are accepted by every branch of the Presbyterian Church with more or less modification. Having done this, he states why he has undertaken his work:—

"The question to be handled deeply concerns the Commonwealth also. The Westminster Confession, it has been often and boastfully said, is the law of the land. It is a part of the statute-book; and if it teaches persecuting principles in religion, our country lies under a reproach, of which every patriotic citizen must be ashamed, and which he must be anxious to see wiped away; the more so, that Scotland has been honoured to do so much for the great cause of civil and religious liberty.

"On the subject to be discussed I am in advance of the Church to which I have the privilege of belonging. It has not pronounced the principles of the Westminster Standards persecuting. It has only made this an 'open question.' It has only said that if they are persecuting, or are supposed to be so, entrants into its offices are not required to approve of them. I am, and have long been, convinced that the Westminster Standards do teach persecuting principles in religion; and I feel called upon in these times to state the grounds on which this conviction rests."

After this the question comes, What is persecution? Dr. Marshall gives the answers that have from time to time been given. Thus, he says, according to some, persecution is forcing conscience; according to others it is forcing people to profess and practise a religion of which their consciences disapprove; according to a third class it is undue severity on religious delinquents; according to a fourth class it is suffering only for the true religion. Having illustrated these positions, Dr. Marshall says:—

"All this diversity of view shows how necessary it is to settle what persecution is; and there is no difficulty in doing this. There is no mystery in the matter. A man is persecuted when he suffers for religion. Any and every penalty inflicted on him on account of religion, is persecution. The penalty may be greater, or it may be less, for the degrees of persecution are manifold; but that does not alter the case. Distinguishing religious delinquency from treason, with which it was so long and so mischievously confounded, Hallam says, with happy exactness:—'A man is punished for religion, when he incurs a penalty for its profession and exercise, to which he was not liable on any other account'; and every such man is persecuted."

And further—

"It is a maxim, that the resolving of the previous question is a key to the main one; and I have therefore dealt the more carefully with this preliminary matter. I only add that the fundamental principle of persecution in religion is apparent from what has been said. It is the authority of man over man in matters of religion. State persecution, of which alone I am to treat, has its origin and its basis in the pestilent doctrine of the civil magistrate's authority over his subjects in these matters. Grant him such authority, say that it is his duty to exercise it, and persecution follows of course. He exercises his authority by giving law to his subjects in religion;

* *The Principles of the Westminster Standards Persecuting.* By WILLIAM MARSHALL, D.D., Coupar-Angus. (Edinburgh: William Oliphant and Co.)

an act as tyrannous as it is incompetent. The law he gives he must enforce; and the enforcing of it is persecution in active operation. The only antidote for this tremendous evil is, confining the civil power to its own sphere, and shutting it out of a domain, where He who 'alone is Lord of the conscience' has a right to rule, and is fit to do so."

Our readers will recognise the ring of this metal: it is refined gold, "yea, gold twice refined."

After this, Dr. Marshall proceeds leisurely and deliberately, step by step, with proposition added to proposition, to prove his case. He first reviews the "Persecuting Principles of the Scottish Reformers prior to the Era of the Westminster Assembly." This is a concise historical review, done with great honesty, and yet, we can well believe, with great pain. It is not pleasant to set yourself to prove that your ancestors were anything but what they should have been. No one, however, who knows anything of history, has any doubt upon the subject treated by the author. What he says of the Scottish Reformers was true of all the Reformers. In leaving Rome, they did not leave Romanism behind them. In particular, they brought with them the persecuting principles of Rome, and worked them "freely and vigorously in support of the Reformed faith." They changed the Pope, but not the Pope—"dom." This was the case everywhere with Episcopalians and Presbyterians, and when it came to their turn, with Independents, and Luther was just as intolerant as the Pope himself. Persecution was the vice of the age, and nowhere was it more prevalent than among the Presbyterian Reformers, Knox himself to wit. From this subject Dr. Marshall passes to the "Persecuting Principles prevalent during the 'Era of the Westminster Assembly,' an elaborate and well-sustained historical review of the condition of religious liberty in the time of the Commonwealth, where the Independents came in for their share of notice, full justice, however, being done to their position and the part taken by Cromwell himself. But, as the author says:—

"Our Presbyterian ancestors only shared it with their contemporaries. Even the Independents, whose claim to toleration our fathers so jealously resisted, did not know the true idea of religious liberty. Had they known it, they never would have given any countenance to the scheme of confining toleration to those who were sound in the fundamentals of Christianity; their leading men drawing up a list of these fundamentals, which, as Hetherington observes, would have 'excluded from toleration all Deists, Papists, Socinians, Arians, Antinomians, and Quakers, and even Arminians by no very strained construction.' Had they known the true idea of religious liberty, they would never have urged in their 'Apologetical Narration,' that their sentence of non-communication would be as effectual as Presbyterian excommunication, 'if the magistrate's power (to which we give as much, and, as we think, more power than the principles of the Presbyterian government will suffer them to yield) do but assist and back the sentence.' Had they known the true idea of religious liberty, the Pilgrim Fathers would have carried it with them to the new home in which they sought an asylum from prelatic persecution; instead of there rancorously and miserably practising for a while the intolerance which they had expatriated themselves to escape."

What was likely to proceed from the men of such a period? Exactly such documents as the Westminster Standards! These Standards so far as they relate to the subject in hand, Dr. Marshall reviews. The first point taken up is the Seventeenth Chapter of the Confession of Faith which treats of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience; the second deals with the Twenty-third chapter—on the Civil Magistrate; and the third with the Larger Catechism. Next we have a review of the writings of the actual composers of these works. They mean religious liberty? Not they! They hated it—for all but themselves, and their "Standards" to this day deny it to all but themselves. Although this is the real subject of Dr. Marshall's work, we cannot follow him in detail through it. We can only say that it is as good writing as it is good reading. For instance, the following partly closes a section, in which Dr. Cunningham is dealt with,—

"That the civil magistrate ought to care for religion and the Church, is a principle common to the religious friends and foes of National Establishments. I hold the principle as firmly as Principal Cunningham did. All Christian voluntaries known to me do the same. They maintain honestly and earnestly that no place or station can release the Christian of his obligations to Christ; and that it is the duty of the Christian, when called to fill the office of the civil magistrate, to do all that he can for Christianity, consistent with its spirit and enactments. But they do not allow that this is 'the principle of National Establishments,' or 'the essence of the Establishment principle,' though 'our highest ecclesiastical authority' has said that it is so. Probably most of them are, like myself, of opinion that the principle of Church Establishments has not yet been ascertained, and, indeed, cannot be, till the sort of Establishment, of which the principle is wanted, has been defined. For example, the principle of a National Establishment, without toleration (the only Establishment which has any countenance in the Westminster Standards), and the principle of a National Establishment, with toleration, are so different, that no metaphysical-theological analysis can make them one; or

extract from them an "essence," of which it could be truly said, that is the essence of both. And the same may be said of the principle of a Popish, or an Anglican National Establishment, the one making the Pope, and the other the King, the head of the Church; and of the principle of a Presbyterian National Establishment, making Christ the Church's only head. If anybody thinks that he can make the principles of these two sorts of Establishments one, or that he can devise a form of words that would be a common definition of the principles, or even of the 'essence' of them, let him try the feat."

This is the end of the section.—

"The principle of National Establishments is, that the civil magistrate ought to care for religion and the Church, and to seek their good. Of course, the principle of Voluntarism is, that the civil magistrate ought not to care for religion and the Church, and to seek their good. Shocking! all pious weaklings at once cry out, turning up the white of their eyes; and all time-servers forthwith swell the cry, as the craftsmen of Ephesus did. And there is the same sort of pious fraud in other sophisms for National Establishments. A very common one of late has been, the principle of National Establishments is the headship of Christ over the nations. Of course, it follows that the principle of Voluntarism is that Christ is not the head of the nations, and that what Voluntaries are fighting for is to keep 'the prince of this world' in that high place! When will such outrages on Christian charity cease! The weapons of the warfare of all such combatants are worse than 'carnal'!"

Dr. Marshall boldly calls upon the various Presbyterian bodies to review their formularies. We hope they will do so, but we doubt whether they will, until lay public opinion compels them, and then? Then, as in all similar cases, opinion will have grown or drifted beyond present conventional meanings, as it has done with some of our own Standards, Confessions and Trust-deeds. The end will be the abandonment of all such defences of the Truth, but even Dr. Marshall is not prepared for this.

"THE PARISIANS."

It is not satisfactory to arrive at the denouement of the story of a great novelist, and to lay down the book with the feeling that there is not a single character among the *dramatis personæ* whom you wish to retain in your memory, and that the curiosity which the tale itself has awakened has been of so languid a character that you hardly cared to have it satisfied. Yet this is what every admirer of the "Parisians" must feel. The book is singularly clever, full of striking pictures and eloquent passages, with reflections which by many will be accepted as political philosophy, of a profound and original character. But while much may be said in its favour, there are glaring defects which seriously detract from its reputation. We need hardly say that we cannot judge it as we would an ordinary novel of the day, for Lord Lytton had a name and position to sustain, and it is by these that a work of his must be tested, and looked at thus we are constrained to pronounce that his latest book is hardly equal to his reputation. At the same time we gladly acknowledge that there is no sign of decay in his power. He is as full of vivacity, as able to sustain a lively dialogue sparkling with wit and repartee, as fond of ingenious theories, and as ready to defend them by a variety of curious and unfamiliar facts, as daring in flights of fancy, as eloquent in his language, as in any former book. But his theme was beyond him. He has sought to solve problems the conditions of which he but very imperfectly understood. A mere superficial observer living in the midst of great movements, the issues of which are as yet undeveloped, and which, in fact, have hardly begun to reveal their own true character, he has undertaken to depict their true character, and to estimate their value. He has failed where any one must have failed, and where his failure was specially certain because of his utter lack of sympathy with the ideas and aims of those whom he has undertaken. To a man of Lord Lytton's stamp, the intensity of conviction which lies at the root of the more striking facts in the modern political life of Paris was simply unintelligible, and not the less so because there was a time in his own history when he himself was stirred by the lofty aspirations and shared the bright dreams of the would-be regenerators of the world. That time had long since gone, and a very different state of thought and feeling had arisen in the mind of the favourite of fortune, who to the success of the author had united political renown and social distinction, had been a Cabinet Minister and was a peer of England. The effect of all this we can trace in this work. It would have been strange indeed if one who had found the established order of things so pleasant, and whose own place in it was sufficient to satisfy a moderate ambition, had looked with any complacency upon principles which threatened to subvert it, or that he should estimate highly that policy which would treat men and ideas alike

* *The Parisians.* By LORD LYTTON. In 4 Vols. (William Blackwood and Sons.)

as mere counters, with which the game of life was to be played, and distrust those who would invest political and social conflicts with more reality, and throw into them a deeper earnestness.

"Kenelm Chillingly" and the "Parisians" were both written with the same view of portraying the effect of "modern ideas" but the former exhibits their working on an individual character, the latter on a community. Neither of them is a perfectly satisfactory work, owing to the fact that an author of Lord Lytton's temperament, tendencies, and surroundings, whose own field of observation was necessarily limited, and who really knew nothing of the world outside the narrow circle of clubs, drawing-rooms, and aristocratic coteries, could not possibly do justice to "modern ideas." But of the two we have the least satisfaction with the "Parisians," simply because it is a more ambitious attempt. It is, we are told in the prefatory note by the author's son, "panoramic in the profusion and variety of figures presented by it to the reader's imagination." Panoramic pictures are always extremely difficult to execute, and are seldom successful. This is no exception to the rule. The canvas is large, and it is so covered with figures, that the effect is often bewildering and confusing. Let us hasten to say, in justice to the painter, that very few of them are lay figures, though among these is to be reckoned that of De Mauleon, who is the author's favourite, perhaps his mouthpiece; but most of them are drawn from life, are clearly-drawn and vigorous portraits, and have their own place to fill. A story, however, which is written so as to introduce such a variety of characters, naturally lacks not only the strength which arises from more unity and concentration, but also reality and simplicity. We cannot undertake to follow it through its windings or to attempt an analysis of its merits and defects. The book is sure to be so widely read that this would be unnecessary, but we will undertake to say that of the number of readers whom it is certain to secure, both by the reputation of the author and its own attractiveness, that it will be only a small moiety who will find any charm in the narrative, or in whom any sympathy with the principal actors will be excited. Lord Lytton was a splendid rhetorician, a brilliant sketcher of social life, and had the power to write telling stories, but he had the misfortune to believe himself a political philosopher, which he was not, and he cultivated a fondness for romantic dreaming, which was not at all natural to him, and in his endeavour to gratify his taste in these two directions, he failed to achieve success which was within his reach. Men will not come to the "Parisians" to follow the fortunes of Graham Vane, and Isaura, nor to drink in lessons of political wisdom, but rather to see Paris as it presented itself to a shrewd observer at one of the great crises of its history. In this they will not be disappointed. The story may puzzle and weary them, the political speculation may amuse, but the wonderful pictures of social life on the Bourse, in the clubs, the drawing-rooms, and the Imperial Court, in the brilliant days that preceded and the dark season that followed the German war will be as instructive as fascinating.

SOME RECENT SERMONS.*

These volumes are the productions of men whose fundamental conceptions of theological truth are probably the same or similar, but whose position and culture are so different that their modes of thought and their expression of thought exhibit curious contrasts. Those who would seek edification by means of the literature of the pulpit could scarcely err in selecting at random any one of these four works. They were all delivered from the pulpit, and have accordingly the characteristics of sermons, but they may be read with pleasure, which cannot always be said of reported speech. This commendation belongs in the highest degree to Dr. Farrar's discourses. They are the sermons of a scholar preaching to scholars, and are therefore the results of careful study, presented in a form which is itself a pleasing possession, and rich in thoughts always significant. The volume is composed of eleven sermons, the first three, which give a title to the whole, having been preached before the University of Cambridge. These three are very striking,

and have a permanent value as contributions to the theological aspects of certain moral controversies now rife amongst us. The first, on "The Silence of God," would seem to have been suggested by Mr. Greg's book on the "Enigmas of Life," as it not only mentions it, but bears argumentatively upon it. The second deals very ably with the difficulties raised on the subject of conscience. Dr. Farrar's position is quite unassailable, which is, that whatever may have been the genesis of conscience the fact remains—man has a conscience. We wish that all theologians would place upon themselves the same restraint and confine themselves to the simpler and more practical question—how to educate and increase the moral power which man unquestionably possesses. Whether it be approached, as Mr. Darwin says, "from the side of natural history"; or looked upon as a special endowment of man, it is no less the work and the gift of God, and by the serious minded will ever be regarded with awe as one of His greatest and most wonderful gifts. Dr. Farrar sets out the functions of conscience, and shows how these act with the certainty of a law. He dwells a little too strongly, we think, on the purely classical conception of conscience as an avenging power. Juvenal seems to have thought of it as only such, but our modern idea is rather that it is that which determines the agreement or otherwise of our actions with our judgments. The third sermon is on "The Voice of God in History," and is a protest against the materialism which takes significance from man's history, and the atheism which assigns no issue to it. History is never profane, it is always sacred, always, therefore, significant. This Dr. Farrar shows by instances well chosen from both ancient and modern times. Of the other sermons two are on the subject of "Temptation," one on Wisdom and "Knowledge," another on "Working with our Might," and a few others. All are admirable, though not all of equal interest. Unlike sermons generally, they abound in quotations, the references being given in foot-notes. These quotations are always apt, and are of the most miscellaneous character. They indicate a wide acquaintance with literature, and a clear perception of the intellectual and religious tendencies of the present day. This is a volume which is worthy of all praise; we do not remember to have recently read one which has given us so much pleasure, or which seems to us to be likely to afford so much profit.

Dr. Brown is an eminent preacher of the Free Church of Scotland. His sermons were delivered extemporaneously, and have been prepared for the press from the materials furnished by notes and memory. They are doubtless substantially the same as those preached; their style bears evidence of the fact. They are not bookish; they do not read as essays, but as the record of warm and living words once spoken from the pulpit. Dr. Brown speaks of himself as an old man, and his thoughts are those of one who has had much experience, and whose piety is mature. There is a want of flexibility discernible in the theological form, which serves as a vehicle for religious feeling and hopes; a certain monotony of statement is felt by a reader who passes from one sermon to another; but there is no lack of a pure and living sentiment of piety. The depth of the preacher's own feeling and conviction can be measured by the earnestness with which he speaks to others. No really religious person could take up this volume of sermons without finding much in it to quicken and nourish the spiritual life. And those who remember the sermons as delivered will find in this record of them a still greater value.

Mr. Stirling's volume is one that ought to commend itself to teachers of adult classes in our Sunday-schools, to preachers just entering upon "the ministry of the Word," and to all students of the New Testament. It is a model of industrious reading, of careful comparison of varying opinions, and of much reflection upon the text of Scripture. It is, as the title indicates, a collection of studies; but it is not a bare outline of results; the conclusions are set forth in an interesting and orderly, if not always in a clear manner. Any want of clearness that may be felt by the reader—and it has been felt by us—arises not, we imagine, from the thought of the writer, but from his style. This is somewhat unaccountable to us, since the preface informs us that "the substance of a few of the chapters was in part and only in part, delivered from the pulpit." We are unable to understand how a writer, without the thought of an audience before his mind, could have clothed his teaching in so rhetorical a dress. We have read page after page of this volume, and found [the imagery an actual hindrance to our perception of the truth which the author wished to convey. We have again and again tried the experiment of constructing a mental

image of the physical illustrations given in elucidation of any spiritual truth, and have failed to do so, partly because they were unreal, and partly because they were self-contradictory. We open the book at random to find an example, and at the foot of page 108 is the following sentence:—"The belief that man is only five days younger than the universe, has exercised a disastrous influence by narrowing our conception of time." So far all is clear, and few persons, we suppose, will differ with the statement; but then follows a number of illustrations, so-called, which are to us almost unintelligible when taken together—

"This influence extends to our ideas of the eternal; for the outer ring of the known is the inner ring of the unknown. If we find that the universe sprang into existence only a few thousand years ago, we stand in the heart of eternity with a dark lantern in our hand; we have no fire-globe pushing out the circles of gloom and letting light fall into the eternal depths. Then are we but ants burrowing in the dark in this time-crack, between the conflux of two infinities. Peeping out of this crack, how much of the upper or under depths can our vision sweep? It is but a small seed barn to sow the infinite. From such matrix can we expect any great births? Can any great fleet freighted with thought and merchandise of heaven all into this crack? Is there no Hercules to heave out the sides of this ant-cranny, to make it a wide-ringed abyss drinking light from the upper and under worlds, and from which we may see the stars in their paths? In our minds eternity is but the lengthened shadow of time."

We need not go any further, though this kind of writing extends over another half-page. We have made the extract hoping that Mr. Stirling may himself consider whether the proposition with which he set out is in any degree strengthened by all these words, or whether it is not highly probable that it may have been washed out of his reader's mind by the steady downpour of figures of speech that follows it. If this passage stood alone we should not have quoted it, but we made no selection, leaving it to chance what page would turn up. We should like to know in what sense Mr. Stirling uses the word "factor." He asks, "Will glory then be the regenerative factor?" He speaks of sight as "the renewing factor." Does he mean, agent, doer? or, is the word used in its technical sense as an element of a product? Both appear to us [inappropriate to glory and sight, and quite unintelligible to the mass of the people who belong to Congregational churches.

That the style in which these studies are written is a resistance rather than an aid to the understanding of their meaning, must, we think, be admitted, and yet we maintain that they contain valuable suggestions and much truth; and bear the marks of well-directed ability. The first discourse is entitled "The Invisible Christ the Condition of the Church's Life." It is a convincing argument against Millenarian dreams. It is founded on the words "As a man travelling in a far country." There is, says our author, one departure and one return; and that return is not to reign but to reckon. The entire volume is divided into fourteen chapters or discourses, in which all the points of the parables are considered. Mr. Stirling considers that they refer to the moral conditions of the individual; not, as some writers, to the destiny of nations. This is seen most strikingly in the last chapter—"The Retributive State exhausted of the Good Element." The clothed servant is cast out of the kingdom of light; "there was a common ground on which the three men shaped their past; on that ground they separate; God drawing inward to His joy the good, and drawing the world of cross and hope from beneath the feet of the wicked." The condition of the latter is hopeless impotence; but it is also "the lot of awakened consciousness." These slight quotations from the first and last chapters of the book will indicate the theology of the whole. Of that it is not our business to offer an opinion. We recommend the work to all Christian readers as a thoughtful, conscientious study of a suggestive portion of Scripture. Its diffuseness is its most obvious fault.

GERMANY AND FRANCE.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says that the second note of the *North German Gazette* is held to show that there has been a change in the feelings or intentions of the German Government with regard to the French Government, and it is thought this change has been occasioned by recent measures and declarations of the latter with reference to the question whether Germany will prosecute the French bishops before the French tribunals under the law of 1819. That does not imply any intervention on the part of the Government, and it is a French jury alone who will have to take cognisance of the matter, independently of any intervention whatever. Although this is the case, the unfavourable impression produced on the financial world still continues. The *Francis* of Monday evening says the chances of diplomatic complications are regarded as finally removed.

* *The Silence and the Voices of God, with Other Sermons.* By FREDERIC W. FARRAR, D.D., F.R.S. (London: Macmillan and Co. 1874.)

The Word of Life, being Selections from the Work of a Ministry. By CHARLES J. BROWN, D.D., Edinburgh. (London: Nisbet and Co.)

The Stewardship of Life, or Studies on the Parable of the Talents. By the Rev. JAMES STIRLING, Minister of City-road Congregational Church, London. (London: Hodder and Stoughton.)

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Dutch Government has received a despatch from their consul at Penang announcing that the Kraton has been captured by the troops, with little loss.

THE RETURN CURRENT.—Reports still come to hand that great numbers of the working classes who emigrated to the United States a few years ago are returning to England.

DEATH OF THE SIAMESE TWINS.—A New York telegram of Tuesday week says:—"The Siamese twins are dead. They breathed their last at their home at Greensboro, North Carolina; one dying two hours before the other. They were 63 years of age."

THE EXPECTED FAMINE IN BENGAL.—The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*, in a telegram dated the 26th inst., says:—"Yesterday's rain marked one inch in Bengal. In Behar the rainfall was less. It has been good for water supply and ploughing, but bad for other than food crops. A public meeting is to be held next week for raising subscriptions. The relief committees are subdivided besides district, with subordinate committees. Mr. Luttman Johnson has been made secretary to the Assam Government." The same correspondent states that Mr. Forsyth's embassy left Yarkund for Kaahgar on the 27th of November. He was cordially welcomed everywhere.

A GENUINE ROBINSON CRUSOE.—A remarkable discovery has been made in the South Pacific. Captain Scott, of the ship *Elgiva*, of Liverpool, in his last voyage, touched at the small island of Bellinghausen, and there found a South Sea Islander, its only inhabitant. The man could not speak a word of English, and was therefore perfectly unable to explain to his rescuers how or in what way he had become a "Robinson Crusoe." He had received some injuries, which tend to the supposition that he had been brought from one of the cluster of the Polynesian Islands, and left to famish after being first maltreated. He had lived by eating coconuts and oysters, and but for his discovery would probably have been able to have sustained nature for some time. He was brought to London by Captain Scott and thence transferred to Liverpool, where he is now working as a labourer at the docks. He is described to be not ill-looking for one of his race, and to be perfectly tractable. Since his discovery he has acquired a few simple words of the English language, but it must be some considerable time before he will possess sufficient command of words to describe the history of his life.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.—News has been received from the Gold Coast to the 11th inst. All the troops had been landed, and the 42nd and the Rifles had marched to the front: but the 23rd had been ordered to embark again, on account of the deficiency of carriers to convey ammunition and stores for their use. An attempt was to be made to raise a corps of 1,000 carriers in the west. Sir Garnet Wolseley with his staff had arrived at the Prah. Captain Glover, with 1,580 men, was on his way to join him. The news from the line of march was favourable, and the interior is said to have been found much more healthy than the coast. The *Western Morning News* correspondent telegraphs that King Koffee has made overtures for peace, offering to pay gold dust at the rate of 2,000*l.* per diem since the war commenced. General Wolseley peremptorily refused these terms, intimating, however, that if a satisfactory indemnity were paid he had no desire to destroy Coomassie. Meanwhile our forces were pushing forward, and would undoubtedly arrive at the capital before terms were settled. The *Times* correspondent thinks it is likely enough that the Ashantee king will take little notice of our troops so long as they remain on this side of the river. When they do cross over his first proceeding will probably be to cut off the head of the man who brings him the news, and to write a letter to Sir Garnet Wolseley, assuring him that he loves the white man and will do whatever Sir Garnet wishes him to do. Sir Garnet declares that nothing shall induce him to halt on the way, and it is to be hoped, the correspondent adds, that he will maintain his resolution. He must be well aware that fair words are as much missiles of war with the Ashantees as the slugs and bits of old iron with which they load their flint-lock guns. But after all it is more probable that the Ashantees will meet us about half way to Coomassie, and fight hard to the last, and that when Coomassie is taken the King and his nobles will commit suicide. That is the line of conduct which is in accordance with the morals and customs of the country.

The Ashantees (the writer says), compared with the Fantees, are a military people, but I cannot suppose for a moment that it is possible for them to prevent us from reaching Coomassie. Their weapons are paltry; they will probably soon blaze away their ammunition, for in battle they fire nine shots out of ten in the air. They have no fortifications. Coomassie is not even a natural stronghold, but an open, unprotected town. I believe that when Coomassie is taken the Ashantees will be completely subdued, and these are the terms we should exact:—1, a heavy indemnity in gold dust; 2, the disarming of the people, as Oude and Seinde were disarmed; 3, the opening up of the country and making it a thoroughfare. It will not be difficult to enforce these stipulations. The European regiments will be withdrawn at once. On that head there need be no uneasiness at home. Nothing that West Africa can offer would justify their detention in the bush. But in no case would it be necessary. We have a large force of regular negro troops, and our native allies will be useful to hold the net when the lion has once been caught.

MARRIAGE OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

The marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh with the Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna, only daughter of the Emperor of Russia, took place at St. Petersburg on Friday, and the event was described in copious telegraphic reports in Saturday's papers. The day was unfavourable; a decided thaw prevailed; the streets were full of mire; and the atmosphere was heavy and oppressive. The bells of the churches rang out a merry peal at an early hour, and at eight o'clock, when it was scarcely daylight, the guns of the fortress fired a salute. Flags were hoisted on some of the public buildings. The company began to arrive at the Winter Palace at twelve o'clock, and continued to do so until nearly half-past one. In the Concert Hall, through which the procession passed, there was a large assemblage of guests.

The atmospheric gloom broke just as the wedding procession entered on its way to the chapel, and bright sunshine streamed through the windows and lighted up the hall. Of the scene in the Greek chapel we read:—

The Duke and his bride are standing on a crimson square before a small lectern, on which are laid the Gospels in a jewelled cover. The deep voice of Monsignor Bashanoff is chanting the service, and every few moments a response of exquisite harmony falls upon the ear. The doors of that gorgeous chapel are set wide open, and within them in the more sacred space beyond stand the three Metropolitans of Novgorod, Moscow, and Kiev. The grey hair of Monsignor Bashanoff's assistant priest falls over robes wholly of gold. The Emperor and Empress stand by the Imperial chairs to the right. The Prince of Wales, in his general's uniform of scarlet, is at the edge of the crimson carpet to the left. After much chanting and low-voiced reading, the golden marriage crowns are brought. Prince Arthur and a younger brother of the bride advance, take the crowns from the priests, and hold them at arm's length over the heads of bridegroom and bride. The Crown Prince of Prussia, in a dark blue uniform, crossed by a red ribbon, stands near the Prince of Wales. From the attitude in which their marriage crowns have to be held, Prince Arthur and the young grand duke have frequently to change their hands. At last Prince Arthur tires altogether, for indeed the position is very tiring, and he is relieved by the Grand Duke Alexis. The Metropolitan and high ecclesiastics in the inner space, where there is a table with candles, sacred pictures, and precious bound books, often bow and cross themselves. One chant, exquisitely soft and tender, was worth the whole journey to St. Petersburg to hear. Right and left and to the rear of the principal group are the grand dukes and the foreign princes, and the floor of the rest of the chapel is filled with princely and noble men and women—the former on the left, the latter on the right. Now bride and bridegroom, holding lighted candles in each hand, walk thrice round the altar and the lectern on which lie the jewelled books; the duke holding the hem of the upper part of the priest's golden robe. His royal highness bears himself with perfect composure and dignity. The marriage crowns are now received on golden plates and taken into the inner chapel, whither the bride and bridegroom follow, walking thrice round the altar. But before this the Sacrament has been administered by Monsignor Bashanoff, who passed the cup from the lips of the bridegroom to those of the bride three times. A triumphal chant, a splendid volume of human voices, ends the service, so far as we can see it, for now we who have to write must hurry in advance to the Alexander Hall, a white hall, with purple velvet curtains to the windows, and pictures of Alexander I. and his battles.

Afterwards came the English service in a hall, the curtains of which were drawn, 10,000 wax lights supplying the place of excluded day. Here Dean Stanley and his chaplains awaited the coming of the wedding party.

The Czar leads his daughter to the steps before the brass rails, and then with a stately bow resigns her to the duke, who takes his place beside the princess upon the velvet step, supported as before by Prince Arthur, the young grand duke, and four chamberlains in gold-and-white. The chant of the Russian choir burst forth in a torrent of splendid sound, and then the dean begins to read the service. The grand duchess wears a small diamond crown surmounted by a cross, and carries a Prayer-book bound in white and a bouquet of white-and-purple flowers. Her voice is clear, and we of her adopted country notice how perfect is her English, as she repeats the formula, "I, Marie, take thee, Alfred Ernest, to be my wedded husband." At the words, "Who giveth this woman to be the wife of this man?" the dean looked towards the left side of the hall, where stood the Czar. During the prayers the duke and grand duchess knelt side by side, their hands upon the brass rail. In the midst of the service came the Anthem, sung by the boys of the Imperial Chapel. The duke took the ring from Prince Arthur and placed it upon the finger of his bride. When the dean had read the special prayer, and pronounced the blessing, during which the kneeling bride and bridegroom bent their heads, the choir gave the concluding anthem, a triumphal strain of surprising volume. When the voices had ceased the dean advanced, the bride and bridegroom bent their head for the last time, and listened to the blessing pronounced over them. During the service the Emperor maintained a stately air of reserved composure. The Empress looked towards her only daughter with wistful eyes, and it is said that the parting is to Her Majesty a sorrow hardly to be borne. At the proper clause in the service the Czar gave his daughter away with a grave and dignified bow. And when it was over the Emperor and Empress approached, their son and daughter turned towards them, and first the Czar kissed the grand duchess on the cheek. When His Majesty had shaken hands with the duke, the Czarina and the Duchess of Edinburgh turned to each other, and the mother pressed a long, long kiss on the cheek of her daughter. When Her Majesty had kissed the duke, and the two had pressed each other's hands affectionately, the Czar gave his arm to the Czarina,

and led the procession along the open way through the glittering throng of courtiers and ladies out of the hall.

The bouquet held by the bride at the English service was from the Queen. It contained sprigs of myrtle from a tree at Osborne, from which were plucked sprigs for the Princess Royal's bouquet ten years ago. The prayer-books held by the duke and the grand duchess were presented also by the Queen. One of the prettiest sights was the group of young grand dukes, some mere boys, each of whom was in the uniform of a crack regiment. One youthful imperial highness, in a white tunic, stood all through the English service, with his arm placed affectionately in that of a tall, kind-looking lady, evidently his mother. The Princess of Prussia, who bears every year a more striking likeness to the Queen, stood with the group of princesses to the right, not far from the Czar. The Princess of Wales looked her loveliest, and seemed in perfect health. The bride, crushed beneath her heavy double dress, looked sadly tired at the English service. The register was signed at three o'clock, the signatures being attested by the heirs of four European kingdoms.

The marriage ceremonials were followed by an Imperial banquet.

At half-past five (the health of the Emperor and Empress having been first given) all rose to drink the health of the bride and bridegroom, who stood also bowing, while the Emperor and Empress touched glasses with their son and daughter. Then the heavy guns of the fortress came booming through the hall, Albani's voice, in an air from *Rigoletto*, soaring high above the heavy thunder of the cannon. This was followed by other toasts, that of the Queen being enthusiastically drunk. The Imperial Family and royal guests were served by Court Chamberlains, standing behind the chairs of the Emperor and Princess. The great ladies at the long tables sat by themselves, and if this was strange the effect of the banquet seen from above was certainly enhanced by the massing together of its separate splendours. Each toast was drunk to a crash of appropriate music, but the heavy guns booming through the lighted room were the most marked features of the wedding feast, and spoke like the sullen voice of the military power which fences round the wealth and greatness of the dynasty and Empire of All the Russias.

In the evening the day's festivities were terminated by a State ball, whence the illustrious bride and bridegroom departed for the palace where they are to spend their brief honeymoon.

Outside the Imperial Palace the celebration of the event in the city of St. Petersburg was conducted on a great scale. The illuminations were not, however, of surpassing brilliancy, but they were effective nevertheless. The light was enough to cast against the sky a lurid glare that might have been taken for that of a fire. In the streets the throng was great of foot-passengers streaming this way and that, and of sleighs and carriages. The great in front of the Winter Palace was crowded with people waiting to see the bride and bridegroom go away for their honeymoon.

According to the St. Petersburg telegrams the bride and bridegroom did not arrive at Tsarkoe Selo until after midnight on Friday. The platform of the railway-station was illuminated with Bengal lights, as well as all the houses from the station to the palace. A deputation of the townspeople presented the august couple with bread and salt on a rich silver dish. On Saturday the duke and grand duchess drove out in the park. At night an unexpected visit was paid to them by the Emperor. It is stated that the marriage portion of her imperial highness is four millions of roubles.

On Sunday Dean Stanley preached at the English Church in aid of the sufferers by the dearth in the Samara Province. The English and other princes, accompanied the Emperor to the Sunday parade of officers.

In a proclamation the Czar invites the prayers of the faithful for a blessing on the marriage. The occasion has been commemorated by a large distribution of honours and promotions.

The merchants of St. Petersburg are to present the Duchess of Edinburgh with a beautiful and costly piece of plate. The English colony will give a lifeboat to the Russian Lifeboat Society in honour of the marriage, and will present a silver model of the boat to her imperial highness.

The official *St. Petersburg Gazette* briefly records the fact of the royal marriage under the heading of court news. The other journals reprint this statement, but abstain from all comment. It appears that the regulation which forbids all unauthorized mention of events in the imperial family is being strictly enforced.

There were many loyal celebrations of the event here. Earl Granville, as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, gave a grand dinner, at which covers were laid for thirty-six. A special religious service was held in the Russian Chapel in London, and in the evening the Russian Embassy in Chesham-place presented a blaze of illuminations. There were some other illuminations in the evening, but this form of celebration was by no means general. In the provincial towns banquets and entertainments were given, and in many places the day was observed as a semi-holiday. The festivities at Edinburgh were on a very extensive scale, as befitted the city from which the royal duke derives his title. At Sandringham all the labourers on the royal estate received money presents. Windsor loyally celebrated the event.

A PRACTICAL HINT.—Captain Shaw, in his report on the London fires of 1873, calls attention to a point of considerable and growing importance—namely, the enormous height to which buildings are now erected without any adequate precautions for the safety of life in the upper stories.

Gleanings.

"The one thing," says Jean Paul, "which a maiden most easily forgets is how she looks—hence mirrors were invented."

As a proof of the mildness of the climate in Llandudno, blackberries are said to be in bloom.

Charles Lamb, when speaking of one of his rides on horseback, remarked that "all at once his horse stopped, but he kept right on."

A SLIGHT MISTAKE.—A rural gentleman, visiting a friend, found at the back of the house, after dusk, an immense snake lying on the grass. He procured an axe, and when he had chopped the reptile into a dozen pieces he discovered it to be a garden hose, which should have been hung in the tool-house.

PARISIAN FASHION IN BONNETS.—The *chapeaux* now worn cover the head very tolerably; they are certainly more sensible than the minute bonnets of a few seasons back. If they leave the forehead and front of the head exposed, they are large enough to enclose the chignon behind, and though strings are generally dispensed with, they can be worn by those who have a prejudice in their favour, or be replaced by a veil of tulle wound round the neck, in case the boa of thick long fur, now worn so much, should not be considered sufficient.—*Paris Correspondent of the Warehousemen and Draper's Trade Journal.*

A WHITE HAT.—In our time, a white hat has been regarded as a political distinction. Henry Hunt, the Radical, almost invariably wore a white hat; but the political significance was thought to be lost by the Hon. Mr. Stuart Wortley, a Tory, one evening appearing in the House of Commons wearing a white hat. At the Oxford Commemoration, in 1864, we read of the wearer of a white hat being assailed with a storm of hisses. Probably this arose from the recollection of the old Radical badge, the white hat, towards which Oxford University is anything but Alma Mater. In the "Poetical Note-book and Epigrammatic Museum," 1824, appeared the following solution:—

THE WHITE HAT.

On being asked the reason of wearing one.

You asked the reason I wear a white hat:
'Tis for lightness I wear it, what think you of that?
So light is its weight that no headache I rue,
So light its expense that it wears me out too;
So light is its colour that it never looks dusty,
So light though I treat it, it never looks rusty;
So light in its fashion, its shape, and its air,
So light in its fit, its sit, and its wear;
So light in its turning, its twisting and twining,
So light in its bearer, its binding, and lining;
So light to a figure, so light to a letter,
And, if light my excuse, you may light on a better.

ELECTIONEERING ANECDOTES.—Sylvanus Urban, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, says—"Sir Edward Watkin distinguished himself in the recent contest at Exeter by his adroitness and tact as a canvasser, and a host of stories are in circulation about his readiness in dealing with hesitating voters. 'Lor' bless 'ee, sir,' said one old dame, when asked about her husband's vote, 'my old man can't vote at all this year. Coals is mortal dear.' 'Yes,' answers Sir Watkin—as he is called in Exeter—'it's along o' the Tories.' 'Be it sure, sir!' 'Yes; but if I'm returned you'll have coals cheap enough next year, for I intend to do my best to repeal the law of entail'—an argument which, if not perhaps conclusive, was puzzling. A shopkeeper in a bye-street was asked if he had voted. 'No, I have not yet; for the truth is I have no one to attend to my shop.' 'Is that all?' asks Sir Watkin, taking off his hat, and walking round the counter. 'Here, put on your hat and go at once; I'll take care of your shop till you come back.' And Sir Watkin did. But in a recent contest for the representation of West Gloucestershire a still more piquant instance of this kind occurred. Mr. Marling's partner, calling upon a voter in the Forest of Dean, found him digging potatoes. The voter pleaded this as an excuse for not voting. 'To-morrow's market day, and I shall lose the sale of my potatoes, and Mr. Marling can better afford to lose my vote than I can afford to miss the sale of these potatoes.' 'Then give me your fork,' said the canvasser, 'I'll dig the potatoes while you go and vote.' The man slouched off to the poll, voted, and, returning, peeped through his parlour window to see the canvasser at work in the potato ground. 'He uses the fork very well, and a stroke of work will perhaps do him good. I'll have a pipe.' And a pipe he had, keeping his eye, however, all the time upon the digger in the potato plot, till the canvasser, growing tired, walked round to the cottage to find how nicely he had been tricked into an hour's hard labour while the free and independent freeholder was taking his ease with a 'churchwarden' in his chimney-corner."

The Rev. JOHN RATTENBURY writes, April 5, 1872:—"I have no hesitation in declaring that Turner's Tamarind Emulsion soothes and removes bronchial irritation and gives strength and tone to the voice." Oct. 8, 1872, the Rev. G. C. Harvard writes: "We always keep the Tamarind Emulsion in our house; it is an excellent thing for hoarseness, and clears the voice most effectually." 13d. and 2s. 9d. per bottle. Sold at 4, Cheapside; 150, Oxford-street, W.; and all leading chemists in the kingdom.

JUDSON'S SIMPLE DYES are exceedingly useful household commodities. The process is simple, and result satisfactory, as applied to woollen and silk articles. Shetland shawls or cloths that have become yellow are good subjects for young beginners in the art of dyeing. A basin of water only required; time, five minutes! Judson's Dyes, 6d. per bottle, eighteen colours, of all Chemists and Stationers.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

MARRIAGES.

KAYE-SKUSE.—On Dec. 30, at Rochester, N.Y., by the Rev. W. W. Batterhall, John William, eldest son of John Kaye, Esq., Prospect Hall, Woodford, Essex, to Mary Louisa Skuse, niece of the Alderman of the 14th Ward in that city. Home address, 250, New Maine-street, Rochester, N.Y., United States.

SLOMAN-RODGERS.—On Jan. 22, at the Independent Chapel, Clutton, near Bristol, by the Rev. J. E. Judson, Mr. John Shepherd Sloman, of Bristol, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Samuel Rogers, of Clutton.

DEATHS.

LEONARD.—On Jan. 18, at Malvern, Wilberforce Leonard, Esq., of Oakhurst Leigh Woods, Clifton, Bristol, aged 37.

HEWITT.—On Jan. 20, after twenty-seven years' painful and severe affliction, Mary, wife of the Rev. David Hewitt, Congregational minister, Rougemont-terrace, Exeter, aged 57 years.

EDWARDS.—On Jan. 21, at Rydal Cottage, Uckfield, Daniel Edwards, Esq., in the 79th year of his age.

FUNERAL REFORM.

The LONDON NECROPOLIS COMPANY conducts Funerals with simplicity, and with great economy. Prospectus free.—Chief Office, 2, Lancaster-place, Strand, W.C.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 1874.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued £37,324,275 Government Debt. £11,015,100
Other Securities .. 3,984,900
Gold Coin & Bullion 22,324,275
Silver Bullion

£37,324,275

£37,324,275

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietor's Capital £14,553,000 Government Securities, (inc. dead weight annuity), £14,795,266
Reserve .. 3,421,864
Public Deposits .. 4,854,041
Other Deposits .. 20,586,533 Other Securities .. 16,719,458
Seven Day .. 11,539,110
Other Bills .. 387,517 Gold & Silver Coin 749,121

£43,802,955

£43,802,955

Jan. 22, 1874.

F. MAY, Chief Cashier.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills.—*Civil Service Gazette.* Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London."

MARRIAGE OF THE INNOCENTS.—Parents valuing their children's safety will avoid soothing medicines containing opium, so frequently fatal to infants, and will use only "Stedman's Teething Powders," which are the safest and best, being free from opium. Prepared by a surgeon (not a chemist) having special experience in children's diseases, whose name, "Stedman," has but one "e" in it. Trade mark, a Gum Lancet. Refuse all others. Also *Materfamilias Pills*, a tasteless and efficient substitute for Castor Oil. Price 2s. 3d. per box. Depot—East-road, Hoxton, London, N.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—This most celebrated and delicious old mellow spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Note the Red Seal, Pink label, and Cork branded "Kinahan's LL Whisky." Wholesale, 20, Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-st., W.

WHEN MAN'S DIGESTION LOSES ITS VIGOUR AND ACTIVITY, and the functions of the stomach and liver become irregular and languid, they may be speedily corrected by Holloway's Ointment and Pills. Our comfort, happiness, and security depend on the knowledge that most diseases originate from a trifling beginning, and the large proportion of them spring from inattention to the state of the stomach. Professor Holloway has turned this knowledge to good account by discovering medicines which cure without exception the attendants on disordered digestion. They ward off likewise the torturing sick headache. The Ointment should be well rubbed twice daily over the stomach, liver, and bowels. To them it penetrates, and, aided by the Pills, immediately works such a revolution as establishes perfect digestion.

Markets.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Jan. 26.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 7,072 head. In the corresponding week last year we received 6,453; in 1872, 8,619; in 1871, 3,883; in 1870, 7,195; and in 1869, 3,477 head. Nothing of importance has transpired in the cattle trade to-day. The supplies of stock have not been extensive, but they have been sufficient for the demand. As regards beasts, only a moderate supply has been received from our own grazing districts. There has been no feature on the market, sales progressed very slowly at about late quotations. The best Scots and crosses have changed hands at 6s. to 6s. 2d. per 8 lbs. From Norfolk and Suffolk we have received about 1,000, from other parts of England about 750, from Scotland 190, and from Ireland 200 head. The foreign side of the market has not been heavily supplied. There have been about 460 Dutch, 175 Spanish, and 60 Gothenburg. The trade has been dull, and prices have ruled firm. The show of sheep has been moderate, the trade has been quiet. Prime small Downes have been in fair request and have made 7s. per 8 lbs., but the best heavy sheep have been dull of sale, and have not made more than 6s. 8d. per 8 lbs. For calves a moderate inquiry has prevailed at late quotations. Pigs have been inactive on former terms.

Per 8lbs., to sink the offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	4	4	5	0	Pr. coarse woolled	6	6	8	0
Second quality	5	2	5	6	Prime Southdown	6	8	7	0
Prime large oxen	5	10	6	0	Lge. coarse calves	5	6	5	10
Prime Scots	6	0	6	2	Prime small	6	4	6	8
Coarse inf. sheep	5	0	5	4	Large hogs	3	8	4	2
Second quality	5	8	6	0	Neat sm. porkers	4	6	4	10

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Jan. 26.—An increased supply of meat was on sale here to-day, and the weather being more favourable, a better trade was experienced, at about late prices.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	3	4	4	0	Inferior Mutton	3	8	4	4
Middling do.	4	2	4	8	Middling do.	4	8	5	0
Prime large do.	5	0	5	4	Prime do.	5	0	5	4
Prime small do.	5	2	5	6	Large pork	3	8	4	4
Veal	4	8	5	6	Small do.	4	8	5	6

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Jan. 26.

The fresh arrivals of all descriptions of grain are only moderate. We had a quiet market this morning, and prices of English wheat remain the same as on Monday last. Sales of foreign wheat proceed slowly, and American wheat, ex ship, sold at a little reduction. The flour trade was inactive, at former quotations. Peas and beans supported last week's prices. Malting barley was firm; grinding descriptions were rather easier to buy. Indian corn barely maintained last week's advance. Oats have given way in value 6d. on Russian, and 1s. per qr. on Swedish qualities since Monday last. Cargoes on the coast meet less demand, and the sales making are at a slight decline.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	PEAS—	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent, red fine ..	— to 65	Grey ..	36 to 39
Ditto new ..	— 56	Maple ..	39 45
White fine ..	— 68	White, boilers ..	39 47
new ..	— 54	Foreign ..	40 44
Foreign red ..	63 65	RYE ..	42 44
white ..	64 67		
BARLEY—		OATS—	
Grinding ..	34 38	English feed ..	24 32
Chevalier ..	46 56	potato ..	—
Distilling ..	40 47	Scotch feed ..	—
Foreign ..	32 35	potato ..	—
MALT—		Irish Black ..	24 28
Pale, new ..	73 78	White ..	23 29
Chevalier ..	—	Foreign feed ..	24 28
Brown ..	54 59		
BEANS—		FLOUR—	
Ticks ..	40 42	Town made ..	50 57
Harrow ..	42 48	Best country ..	—
Pigeon ..	47 52	households ..	45 47
Egyptian ..	42 43	Norfolk and ..	—
		Suffolk ..	39 44

PROVISIONS, Monday, Jan. 26.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 324 firkins butter, and 3,796 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 27,429 packages butter, 370 bales and 96 boxes bacon. In the butter there is little change to notice during the week: the supplies of foreign clear oil as they come. The bacon market is without change in value; it closed firm, and the manufacturers not willing to go on selling at present rates, owing to the high price of pigs in Ireland.

COVENT GARDEN, Thursday, Jan. 22.—We have no improvement to report in the general way of business, there being no interruption caused by bad weather or otherwise to interfere with our importations, and consequently we keep well supplied. Our chief consignments from Paris are salad-ing and asparagus, and by the same route from Algiers we have received artichokes and tomatoes; the other portions of the south side of the Continent furnish oranges, lemons, pomegranates, citrons, and melons, the latter being unusually good. Pines, shaddockes, and pomeloes from St. Michael's and the West Indies. Potatoes are in good demand at same prices as last week, the best samples being a little in advance of the prices quoted. Among the retail quotations we note the following:—shaddockes, 2s. 6d. to 4s. each; pomeloes, 7s. to 12s. per doz.; peas, 16s. to 21s. per quart, shelled; French beans, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per hundred; new ashleaf potatoes, 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.; medlars, 6d., 8d., and 1s. per doz. The supply of fruit in general is very good, but the demand is small at present.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Jan. 26.—The business transacted continues to be limited; the small demand is supplied by the few holders who are inclined to sell at a few shillings below the nominal values. The proportion of cheap hops has increased during the past fortnight, but the majority of planters at present intend to hold until the spring. No demand prevails for yearlings and olds. Mid and East Kent, 6l., 7l., 8l., 9l., 10l.; Weald of Kent, 5l., 6l., 7l., 8l., 9l., 10l.; Sussex, 5l., 6l., 7l., 8l., 9l., 10l.; Farnham and Country, 6l., 7l., 8l., 9l., 10l., 11l., 12l.; Farnham, 7l., 8l., 9l., 10l., 11l., 12l.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Jan. 26.—Rather less extensive supplies of potatoes are on sale at these markets, but there is still a moderate show of foreign produce. There is a steady demand for most descriptions, and prices rule firm as follows:—Regents, 110s. to 125s. per ton; Rocks, 70s. to 80s. per ton; Victorias, 110s. to 120s. per ton; Flukes, 120s. to 140s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Jan. 26.—Fine English red cloverseed comes out slowly, and dark purple samples brought very high rates, whilst commoner sorts, being more abundant, could be bought at moderate prices. Foreign qualities were quite as dear for the best French and American samples. Choice white qualities realised fully as much money. Fine trefoil was held higher, but demand not yet active. White mustard-seed remains very dull, although offered at comparatively low prices. Of these there is an abundance, whilst scarcely any good brown offers. The latter is rather more inquired after for sowing. Canaryseed brought previous values steadily. Large Dutch hempseed remains firm. New spring tares met a somewhat better demand, the sales running on large French qualities.

WOOL, Monday, Jan. 26.—For English wool there has not been much demand, and prices have been steady. Colonial produce has been dealt in quietly. The next series of public sales will be commenced on the 12th prox. The arrivals to date are about 46,000 bales, and if the weather be favourable it is expected that between 140,000 and 150,000 bales will be offered.

OIL, Monday, Jan. 26.—Linseed oil has commanded only a moderate amount of attention at about late quotations. For rape the demand has been heavy. Other oils have been quiet, but steady.

TALLOW, Monday, Jan. 26.—P.Y.C. is in limited

request, at 40s. to 40s. 3d. per cwt. on the spot. Town tallow is quoted at 39s. 6s. per cwt net cash. Rough fat has declined to 1s. 11d. per 8lbs.

COAL, Monday, Jan. 26.—There being a larger supply of house coal, a considerable reduction took place. Hettons, 24s.; Hartons, 22s.; Hetton Lyons, 22s. Ships at sea, 15; Unsold, 84.

Advertisements.

GAZE'S EASTERN TOURS.—Messrs. Gaze, originators and first conductors of Eastern Travel, are ORGANISING A NINTH PARTY for Egypt, Holy Land, Smyrna, Athens, Constantinople, &c. Starting in February. See "Oriental Gazette," 2d, post free, 3d.—H. Gaze and Son, 142, Strand, London.

A WIDOW LADY, residing in a small but comfortable home, in a healthy and pleasant neighbourhood ten miles from London and eight minutes' walk from the station (at which trains stop almost hourly during the day), **WISHES TO MEET** with a LADY of amiable and cheerful disposition to board with her.—Address, E. L., Post-office, Buckhurst Hill.

WANTED immediately, by a Certificated Lady Student of the University of Cambridge, a SITUATION as GOVERNESS in a Nonconformist family. Acquirements, thorough English, French, and Music; Rudimentary Latin and German.—Address, A. E., Post-office, Mildenhall, Soham.

PARTNERSHIP WANTED, in a sound Wholesale or Manufacturing Business, by a Gentleman with £4,000 or £5,000 capital. Accounts must be open to inspection.—Apply to Theobald, Brothers, and Miall, Accountants, 30, Mark-lane, E.C.

ROTHBURY HOUSE COLLEGE SCHOOL, STROUD GREEN, FINSBURY PARK, N. (G. N. R.).

The course of instruction embraces a sound Commercial Education, Classics, Modern Languages under native Professors. Situation healthy. Separate beds. Prospectuses and references forwarded.

Principal—G. HARDY, A.C.P.

FOREST HOUSE, WOODFORD.

The New School Building is now occupied, giving space for a larger number of Pupils. It contains a schoolroom 50ft. by 20ft., classroom, bathroom, and lavatory (all heated by hot water), together with additional bedrooms.

Prospectuses forwarded on application to the Principal—G. F. H. SYKES, B.A.

STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES' GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principals—The Misses HOWARD.

FIRST TERM, 1874, began THURSDAY, January 22nd.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL, 120, Hagley-road, Edgbaston, near Birmingham.

Conducted by Mr. F. Ewen, with the aid of an efficient staff of resident and visiting Masters, REOPENED on TUESDAY, January 27.

WANTED, an ASSISTANT to teach drawing thoroughly and help in other Departments.

TETTENHALL COLLEGE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

HEAD MASTER.

ALEXANDER WAUGH YOUNG, Esq., M.A. Lond. (Gold Medalist in Classics); late Andrews Scholar, and First Prizeman in Higher Senior Mathematics, of University College, London; Fellow of University College, London.

SECOND MASTER.

H. C. BATTERBURY, Esq., B.A., Mathematical Scholar and Prizeman of St. Peter's College, Cambridge.

ASSISTANT MASTERS.

R. B. CONNELL, Esq., Exhibitioner, Cargill Scholar, and Prizeman of the University of Aberdeen.

E. DARBY, Esq., B.A. Lond.

HENRY TAYLER, Esq.

W. M. ELLIS, Esq.

WM. EBELING, Esq., of the University of Gottingen, Certificated by the Imperial Prussian Government.

EXTRA MASTERS.

ARCHIBALD GUNN, Esq., Student Royal Academy of Arts, London, Drawing.

THOMAS ROBERTS, Esq., Chemistry.

Resident Lady Matron, Miss BAYLIS.

Applications to Head Master, or to the Sec., the Rev. P. P. ROWE, M.A., Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.

THE NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES HOUSE, NEAR WAKEFIELD.

ESTABLISHED 1831.

Principal—Rev. JAMES BEWGLASS, M.A., LL.D., M.R.I.A., assisted by competent Masters.

COMMITTEE.

JOHN CROSSLEY, Esq., J.P., Halifax, Treasurer.

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Rev. James Rae, B.A., Batley. James Dodgshun, Esq., Leeds.

Rev. Jas. Collier, Earlsheaton. Esau Hanson, Esq., Halifax.

Rev. Chas. Illingworth, York. H. Sugden, Esq., Brighouse.

Rev. J. James Morley. W. H. Lee, Esq., J.P., Wakefield.

I. Briggs, Esq., J.P., Wakefield. M. Wilks, Esq., Manchester.

The Committee of the above School have pleasure in announcing, that a new building has just been erected capable of accommodating one hundred Pupils, and specially adapted to secure their domestic comfort.

The course of instruction includes all branches of a sound Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education, so as to fit the Pupils for any department of business, or for entrance at the Universities.

The SCHOOL REOPENED on TUESDAY, the 27th of January, 1874.

Applications for admission to be sent to the Principal. For Prospectuses, Terms, and further information, apply to the Principal or Secretary.

TO the ELECTORS of the TOWER HAMLETS.

GENTLEMEN,

A Dissolution of Parliament has been determined on. A new election will immediately follow.

I desire to retain the honourable and much-coveted position of being again returned as one of the Members for our Borough, and I respectfully solicit a continuation of the confidence you have previously honoured me with.

I can refer with confidence to my votes in the last Parliament as having been invariably given in support of the enlightened legislation that has been initiated and carried through by Mr. Gladstone's Government.

To enable me to give that support I received your confidence, and I believe I have faithfully and loyally given effect to your wishes.

I think I may also unhesitatingly refer to the attention I have invariably given to all local matters.

In again asking your confidence and support it is to enable me to continue my unwavering allegiance to my distinguished leader, Mr. Gladstone; to be able to assist him in the great financial policy he has announced of abolishing the Income Tax, reducing Local Rates, and duties on articles of general consumption.

I confidently hope the importance of fortifying the hands of a Minister who has already shown such ability in grappling with the large issues which the last Parliament has dealt with will be so strongly felt by the commercial and industrial community I aspire to represent that, they will accept my services now placed at their disposal, and will give such expression to their views as will ensure for the Tower Hamlets the reputation it has hitherto possessed of being a constituency reliable for its constancy and invariable support of Liberal opinions.

I hope to have the honour of addressing the electors at the earliest opportunity.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH D'A. SAMUDA.

Poplar, E., January 26, 1874.

THE VALE ACADEMY, Ramsgate. Principal, Mr. M. JACKSON.—In this Establishment a first-class education is given in English and commercial subjects, modern languages, classics, and mathematics. The pupils have taken distinguished positions in the honour lists of the University of London, and at the Civil Service Competitive Examinations. 68 have passed the Oxford Local Examinations, 10 in first and 23 in second class honours. Prospectuses, &c., on application.

OAKLEY HOUSE, CAVERSHAM HILL, near Reading.

Principal—W. WATSON, B.A. Lond.

Assistant-Masters—A. W. Roberts, B.A., of Lincoln College, Oxford, and Arthur Greenwood, A.A. of Oxford. German—Herr Ruoff. French—M. Dermont. Drawing—C. R. Havell, Esq.

The Term commenced on the 20th Jan. Prospectuses, &c., sent on application.

EDUCATION.—CLEVEDON, SOMERSET.—The Rev. C. J. BIRD, M.A., Trin. Coll. Camb., late Vicar of West Fordington, Dorchester, who succeeded on the Bennett Judgment, is desirous of RECEIVING not more than TEN PUPILS. Twenty-five guineas per term.

EDUCATION for GIRLS, at SOUTHSIDE HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

Principals—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. SMITH and Miss FERRIS.

The course of study is adapted to the standard of the Cambridge Local Examinations, and is under the personal supervision of Mr. H. B. Smith and Miss Ferris, who have had considerable experience in teaching, and have successfully passed Pupils at Cambridge and Oxford Local Examinations.

French taught by a resident Parisian Lady. SCHOOL REOPENED on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21.

RYEWORTH HOUSE LADIES' COLLEGE, LONDON-ROAD, CHELTENHAM.

PRINCIPALS—

The Misses MAKEPEACE and the Rev. J. MAKEPEACE.

References: J. Barran, Esq., ex-Mayor of Leeds, Chapel Allerton Hall, near Leeds; Alfred Illingworth, Esq., M.P., Bradford, Yorkshire; Rev. A. Morton Brown, LL.D., Cheltenham; Rev. Alexander McLaren, B.A., Manchester; Rev. Charles Vince, Birmingham, &c., &c.

The COLLEGE REOPENED THURSDAY, Jan. 22, 1874

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX.

HEAD MASTER—

RICHARD F. WEYMOUTH, Esq., D. Lit. and M.A., Fellow of Univ. Coll., Lond.; Member of the Council of the Philological Society, &c., &c.

VICE-MASTER—

Rev. ROBERT HARLEY, F.R.S., F.R.A.S., Corresponding Member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, Member of the London Mathematical Society, formerly Professor of Mathematics and Logic in Airedale College, Bradford, &c.

ASSISTANT MASTERS—

A. H. SCOTT WHITE, Esq., B.A., Prizeman in Anglo-Saxon and Early English of Univ. Coll., London.

JAMES H. MURRAY, Esq., B.A., F.E.L.S., Member of the Council of the Philological Society, one of the Editors of the Publications of the Early English Text Society, Author of "The Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland," &c., &c.

JAMES NETTLESHIP, Esq., B.A., Scholar and Prizeman of Christ's Coll., Camb.; 2nd Class Classical Tripos, 1866.

G. EMERY, Esq., B.A.

LADY RESIDENT—Miss COOKE.

LENT TERM commenced 22nd January, 1874.

For Prospectuses and further information, apply to the Head Master, at the School, or to the Secretary, the Rev. R. H. MARTEN, B.A., Lee, S.E.

MR. COOKE BAINES, SURVEYOR and VALUER, PREPARES and NEGOTIATES COMPENSATION CLAIMS for Property Compulsorily taken for Railways and other Improvements, and also Valued property for every purpose.—26, Finsbury-place, Moorgate-street, E.C.

IMPROVED and ECONOMIC COOKERY.—Use LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT OF MEAT as "stock" for beef-tea, soups, made dishes, and sauces; gives fine flavour and great strength. Invariably adopted in households when fairly tried.

CAUTION.—Genuine only with Baron Liebig's facsimile across label.

TO the ELECTORS of the CITY of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

Mr. Gladstone having decided upon an immediate Dissolution of Parliament, I have the honour of offering myself as a Candidate to represent you again in the House of Commons.

I think our Prime Minister has acted wisely in coming to the decision of dissolving Parliament at the present time; and in not wishing the next few months to be passed in discussing questions which could not have been settled.

In asking you again for your support, and for your confidence, I can safely say that I have conscientiously endeavoured to fulfil the pledges I made at the last election, and to advocate the Liberal policy which I know to be in accordance with your views.

My only desire now, to retain your confidence, is that I may have an opportunity of assisting in carrying out those measures which Mr. Gladstone has announced it to be his intention to bring forward in the ensuing Session of Parliament.

I have had the honour of presenting myself so often before you that my political opinions on most subjects are already well known to you, but I trust that I shall have opportunities within the next few days of meeting you, and of explaining my views on the questions which have been so ably brought before your notice by the Leader of the Liberal party.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your faithful and very obedient Servant,

LIONEL DE ROTHSCHILD.

New-court, 25th January, 1874.

TO the ELECTORS of the CITY of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty has, by the advice of her Ministers, dissolved the Parliament.

I again respectfully offer myself as a candidate for your suffrages, and solicit the honour of being returned as one of your representatives.

I appeal with confidence to the course I have pursued, and to the votes given by me during the nine sessions I have enjoyed the privilege of a seat in the House of Commons as one of the members for the City of London.

The measures passed in the last Parliament under a Liberal Administration have materially tended to promote the peace and prosperity of the country, while the improved condition of large numbers of the labouring classes gives additional stability to all our institutions.

The new Parliament will have early brought before it the great question of Imperial and local taxation, and it must be satisfactory to the country to know that Mr. Gladstone has shadowed forth a Budget in which the Income Tax is to be abolished, and has stated that he intends to give relief in the matter of local taxation, and at the same time remit or reduce taxes on articles of popular consumption.

These changes will require some readjustment of existing taxes.

Among these changes I venture to think the abolition of the House Tax ought to claim the first consideration, as it is simply a property tax in another name levied upon the tenant instead of the landlord.

Should any change be proposed with respect to the local Government of the metropolis, I shall, as I have ever done, use my best exertions to preserve to the citizens of London the right they now possess of managing and controlling their own affairs, a privilege they have enjoyed for many centuries, greatly to the advantage of the trade and commerce of this great metropolis and of the country at large.

The education of the people is now generally recognised as a national duty, and the Education Act of 1870 provides in some measure for the performance of this duty, but amendments, especially in the 25th Clause, are required in order effectually to carry out the intentions of the Legislature.

In the fullest confidence that the citizens of London are unchanged in their attachment to the principles of civil and religious liberty,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your very faithful servant,

WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

94, Westbourne-terrace, Hyde Park, W.
January 26th, 1874.

CITY of LONDON ELECTION, 1874.—ROTHSCHILD, GOSCHEN, and LAWRENCE.

Liberal Electors' Central Committee-room, 63, Queen Victoria-street, and 34, Broad-street, E.C.

WARD COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Aldersgate.—The Old Parr's Head, 166, Aldersgate-street. Aldgate and Billingsgate.—65, Fenchurch-street.

Bassishaw and Coleman-street.—The City Arms, Blomfield-street.

Bishopsgate.—The London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.

Broad-street, Queenhithe, and Vintry.—36, Friday-street.

Bridge, Candlewick, and Walbrook.—The Dyers' Arms, 78, Cannon-street.

Broad-street.—The Excise Tavern, 48 and 49, Old Broad-street.

Castle Baynard.—9, Great Knight Rider-street.

Cheap, Cordwainer, and Dowgate.—The Golden Fleece, Queen-street, Cheapside.

Cripplegate Within.—The King's Arms Tavern and Yorkshire Hotel, Philip-lane.

Cripplegate Without.—The Crown, 24, Red Cross-street.

Farringdon Within.—Moufflet's Hotel, 24, Newgate-street.

Farringdon Without, North Side.—Fortune of War, 4, Giltspur-street.

Farringdon Without, South Side.—The Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street.

The Temple.—Mr. Gregory Foster's Chambers, 1, Pump-court.

Langbourne and Lime-street.—The Elephant, 119, Fenchurch-street.

Portoken.—27, Jewry-street, the Sir Walter Raleigh, New-street; the Nag's Head, Houndsditch; the Outlers' Arms, Cutler-street; the Gun and Star, 51, Middlesex-street.

Tower.—The Ship, Little Tower-street.

CITY OF LONDON ELECTION.

The LIBERAL CANDIDATES will MEET the ELECTORS

at the CANNON-STREET HOTEL, on FRIDAY, 30th January, at Two o'clock precisely. The Central Committee sits daily at 63, Queen Victoria-street, and 34, Broad-street.

It is expected that the nomination will be fixed for Saturday, and the poll on Thursday. Ward electors are respectfully requested to attend at their District Committee rooms to prosecute the canvass.

(By order)

SIDNEY SMITH, Secretary.

36, HILLDROP-ROAD, LONDON, N.

LADIES' SCHOOL, conducted by the Misses HEWITT, assisted by superior English and Foreign Masters.

The SCHOOL REOPENED on MONDAY, January 19.

FERN HOUSE, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.

The Misses MABBS RECEIVE a limited number of YOUNG LADIES to Board and Educate, endeavouring to combine family training and home comforts with school discipline.

The course of study is intended to prepare Pupils for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

AN ARTICLED PUPIL REQUIRED.

TO the ELECTORS of the CITY of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour once more to ask at your hands the high privilege of representing you in Parliament.

My political opinions are well known to you; I have never shrunk from giving them the freest expression.

You know that I am in favour of maintaining the integrity of the Empire, both at home and abroad, without qualification or reserve.

You know that I have always held that the utmost vigilance as to public expenditure was a primary duty of Parliaments and Ministries.

I have stated no less clearly that, in my opinion, it is a paramount national duty not to suffer the Army or Navy to fall below the strength necessary for the maintenance of the national honour, the defence of our vast Imperial interests, and the inviolability of our shores.

I trust I may call to your recollection that the University Test Bill, now a statute of the realm, gave me an early opportunity on my entrance into Parliament to prove my extreme desire to secure to all free access to the highest sources of education without offence to their religious scruples. My earnest wish has ever been neither to impede education by religious difficulties nor to discredit religion by making it the battlefield of parties. I deeply regret that a clause in the Education Act should have created amongst a numerous class a sense of grievance. I have every confidence that time and experience will afford the means of effecting a compromise which will remove the grievance without in any way imperilling the education of any class of children.

I have been the warm advocate of those great measures which at the last election were the watchwords of the Liberal Party, and are now its recorded successes. The spirit of the party has, I believe, not changed with the accomplishment of so many of its wishes. The work marked out for the future in the address of our leader will be undertaken in the same spirit as the labours of the past. I feel confident that the great bulk of the party will deal fearlessly and progressively with the arduous problems which will demand solution, while it remains untainted, as heretofore, by the dangerous theories of subversive philanthropists.

But the present election does not turn on general issues alone. The special issue is—what party and what men are to be entrusted with the finance of the country at a time when an unprecedented surplus affords the opportunity of large measures for the relief of the taxpaying community. The Leader of the Opposition states that the Conservative Party have always favoured the diminution of local taxation and the abolition of the Income-tax. His address is significantly silent as to the simultaneous relief to the consuming classes, on which, as an act of justice, every Liberal will most certainly think it right to insist. The adjustment of relief between different classes, so as to insure the consideration of the just claims of each, so as least to impair sources of revenue, and so as most to benefit the community at large, will, I know, be considered by a majority of the nation to be a task in the highest measure suited to Mr. Gladstone's genius. I appeal to the City of London with confidence to strengthen his hands.

Gentlemen, with a deep sense of gratitude for the trust you have hitherto reposed in me, I offer myself again as a candidate for your suffrages.

I am, your obedient servant,

GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Admiralty, Jan. 26, 1874.

TO the ELECTORS of the BOROUGH of FINSBURY.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have had the honour of representing you in two Parliaments. I have served you faithfully, and to the best of my ability. I therefore, with confidence, beg to offer myself for re-election.

The Parliament elected in 1868, and now dissolved, will be remembered for legislation calculated to confer great benefit on the Nation. The course I have taken, as your Representative, during the passing of the various measures which have now become law, has been, I believe, in accordance with your wishes.

The new Parliament will have to deal with questions of great importance to the country—such as the extension of the Franchise to the Agricultural Population in the Counties, the revision of the Elementary Education Act to meet the conscientious objections of a large portion of the community, the proposed remission of the Income-tax, and the general readjustment of Imperial and Local Taxation. On all these questions I hold decided opinions, well-known to you, and which I shall not fail to express in the House of Commons, if again returned to represent you.

The first question which the new Parliament will have to dispose of is whether the Liberal party shall continue in power. If such is your desire you will send me again as one of your representatives: when I shall continue to give an independent and consistent support to the policy which I believe will promote the best interests of the country.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,

ANDREW LUSK.

The Mansion House, Jan. 26, 1874.

TO the ELECTORS of the BOROUGH of LAMBETH.

GENTLEMEN,—

The Parliament elected in 1868 is about to be dissolved.

The five years of its existence will ever be memorable in the history of our country for the great material progress of the nation, the extension of its commerce, and the distribution among the wage-earning class of a larger proportion of the national wealth. In no similar period has an equal number of important measures passed the Legislature, and become the law of the land. Chief among these may be mentioned—the Irish Church Act, which recognised for the first time the principle of religious equality.

The Irish Land Act, defining the future relations between Landlord and Tenant, to be based on the principle of equity and justice.

The Education Act, which (although requiring amendment as to the 25th Clause) recognises the duty, too long neglected by the nation, of providing the means of culture for the humblest of the people.

The Ballot Act—affording protection to voters of all classes, and under all circumstances. For many years these reforms were persistently opposed by the Tory party. They opposed the Ballot Bill, because its tendency was to make the voter independent, and emancipate him from the influence of interested parties. They opposed the National Education of the People, unless it were placed under sacerdotal influence and control. They opposed the Irish Land Bill, because pertinaciously clinging to feudal notions of exceptional rights possessed by landlords.

They opposed the Irish Church Bill, because they desired religious ascendancy, and are only now beginning to understand that the toleration they were willing to concede was regarded by those whom they affected to tolerate as assumption and insult—and that nothing short of religious equality will satisfy the requirements of justice.

The issue now placed before the Electors is clear and decisive.

Is the work of Reform still to go on?

Is the action of the New Parliament to be marked by advance or retrogression?

There can be no doubt as to the answer that will be given by the Electors of Lambeth.

Five years ago you returned me as one of your Representatives by a majority of more than 8,000—upwards of 15,000 Electors having recorded their votes in my favour.

I venture to refer to my Parliamentary career, and to ask you with some degree of confidence for a favourable verdict.

The advancement of the Local Interests of the Borough, irrespective of political party, I have ever regarded as a duty, and I confidently appeal to the various local bodies in Lambeth for their testimony as to the manner in which that duty has been discharged.

Many important questions will have to be dealt with in the New Parliament.

It is gratifying to find that the anticipated surplus will afford the means of Repealing the Income Tax, and reducing the Local Burdens which press so heavily upon persons with moderate incomes. The question of the admission to the Franchise of agricultural labourers, in the improvement of whose condition we all rejoice, will shortly have to be considered, in connection with the larger subject of alterations in the County Franchise. Greater protection will have to be afforded to our brave sailors who man the merchant marine.

I trust that, by the renewal of your confidence, I may again be found in the ranks of the "party of progress," which will have to solve these and many other social questions.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,

JAMES CLARKE LAWRENCE.

Pitfield Wharf, Lambeth, January 26, 1874.

TO the ELECTORS of the BOROUGH of LAMBETH.

Parliament having been unexpectedly dissolved, I have again the honour to offer myself as a candidate for the representation of your large and influential borough in the House of Commons.

I take this step with the more confidence, believing that both by my votes and speeches I have fulfilled every pledge which I made to you before the last general election. I have voted consistently for all those great Liberal measures which will secure to Mr. Gladstone's Government, notwithstanding some errors, a memorable place in history and in the affections of the English people. At the same time, when points of divergence have arisen, I have endeavoured to act upon the principle that an honourable fidelity to party ties does not necessarily involve a sacrifice of personal independence.

As my opinions on most questions are so well known, and as during the next few days I shall have the pleasure of meeting you, I do not now propose to enter at length upon the public questions of the day. I need not say that the fiscal reforms Mr. Gladstone intends to propose to the new House of Commons meet with my hearty approval, and that the abolition of the Income Tax, which will relieve large classes from an unequal and oppressive burden, is rendered the more acceptable because it is coupled with a proposal that another step shall be taken in the direction of "a free breakfast table"—a policy which ought especially to commend itself to the trading and industrial interests of the country. In this important matter I shall do my utmost to strengthen the hands of a Government which inherits the glorious traditions of Peel and Cobden; and which, in addition to promoting freedom of trade, has shown that a policy of retrenchment may be carried out without any real loss—on the contrary, with added strength—to the defensive resources of the Empire.

As an advocate of religious equality, I shall vote for the repeal of the 25th clause of the Elementary Education Act.

It has been my steadfast endeavour to watch over and promote your local interests with a just regard for the views of all parties and classes of my constituents. This will, I hope, be accepted as a pledge that on the important issues involving the improved government of the Metropolis, which the Prime Minister undertakes to submit to the New Parliament, I should be sedulous in my anxiety to secure to you the full enjoyment of those municipal rights which are the foundation of our national liberties.

My votes in the Parliament which has now ceased to exist are a guarantee that I shall do my utmost to aid in securing the admission of the agricultural labourer within the pale of the Constitution; and I look for the means of reconciling the differences which sometimes embarrass the relations of capital with labour in the growing disposition of both parties to adopt the principle of arbitration.

Believing that arbitration is the best remedy for national, as well as for trades disputes, I am ready to apply the same principle of differences which may unfortunately take place between ourselves and Foreign Powers. Although it may at present be impossible to secure the general adoption of such a course, yet it appears to me desirable that England should show on this question, as she has done on so many others, that she is still prepared to take the foremost place in the van of civilisation.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I can only repeat my assurances that, if re-elected as one of your Representatives, I shall do my best to serve you faithfully, and to support in Parliament those measures which are calculated to secure the happiness and prosperity of the people.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

WM. M'ARTHUR.

2, Gwydyr House, Brixton, January 26, 1874.

TO the ELECTORS of the BOROUGH of CHELSEA.

GENTLEMEN,—

Her Majesty having been advised to dissolve Parliament immediately, we present ourselves before you in the hope that you will honour us with the renewal of the important trust you confided to us in 1868.

We feel certain that under no circumstances will the constituency of Chelsea return any but consistent Liberals to represent them in the House of Commons, and it is our conviction that they will not refuse their confidence to those who have served them faithfully.

We can assert, without fear of contradiction, that we have redeemed every pledge that we gave at the last election; and on the recent occasions when we had the honour of meeting you, it was plain that we were at one with you with regard to the Legislation of the future.

Although we shall have the honour of meeting you again most speedily in the various wards of this great borough, we wish briefly to state that it is our opinion that the county franchise should be assimilated to that in the boroughs, and that such a redistribution of seats should take place as to secure an equal share of electoral power to every voter.

We are united in the hope that the allusion in the Premier's address to the finding of means which will reconcile

differences as to certain portions of the Education Act may point to a satisfactory settlement of the difficulty which has unfortunately arisen in connection with the 25th Clause.

We also trust that we may shortly see, as is shadowed forth to us in the address of the Prime Minister, the abolition of the Income Tax and of the sugar duties, and the affording of a measure of relief to the overburdened rate-payers.

We feel assured that Chelsea will not decline to recognise in us fitting supporters of that Liberal legislation which alone can conduce to the national prosperity and the stability of our institutions.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

CHARLES W. DILKE.

HENRY A. HOARE.

Central Committee Rooms, 17, Sloane-street.

TO the ELECTORS of the TOWER HAMLETS.

When I first submitted for your approval my views on public affairs, I stated the measures which I believed were required to relieve the nation from evils arising out of the misgovernment and neglect of past ages.

These measures I have since constantly advocated. Some of them have been carried through Parliament, others remain to be accomplished, together with those which the exigencies of national progress now demand.

Having, with your full concurrence, after a long service as your representative, accepted office under the present Administration, I trust you will also concur with me that, however sincerely we may cherish our personal opinions, no practical result can be attained without the cordial co-operation of the Liberal party under the guidance of the leader whom you recognised at the last general election.

His address, replete with generous and enlightened ideas, you have doubtless read with satisfaction. I adopt it as the basis of future action, and invite you to support him in his arduous undertaking.

I shall see the earliest opportunity of satisfying you that I have on all occasions used my best endeavours to protect and promote your interests. In the meantime, I trust you will be good enough to give me your support, whilst soliciting a renewal of your confidence at the approaching election.

ACTON S. AYRTON.

27, Hereford-square, Gloucester-road Station, S.W.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

13, St. James's-square, London, S.W.

City Branch: Mansion House Buildings, E.C.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

The Annual Income, steadily increasing, exceeds	£249,000
The Assurance Fund, safely invested, is over	£1,880,000
The New Policies in the last Year were 457,	
issuing	£304,437
The New Annual Premiums were	£9,770
The Bonus added: of Policies in Jan., 1872, was	£323,871
The Total Claims by Death paid amount to	£3,189,801
The subsisting Assurances and Bonuses amount to	£5,773,146

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES.

CREDIT of half the first five annual Premiums allowed on whole-term Policies on healthy Lives not over sixty years of age.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES granted, without Profits, payable at death or on attaining a specified age.

INVALID LIVES assured at rates proportioned to the risk.

CLAIMS paid thirty days after proof of death.

REPORT, 1873.

The 49th Annual Report just issued, and the Balance Sheets for the year ending June 30, 1873, as rendered to the Board of Trade, can be obtained at either of the Society's Offices, or of any of its Agents.

GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary and Secretary.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Head Office—Leadenhall-street, Cornhill, E.C.

ASSURANCES FOR BENEFIT OF WIFE AND CHILDREN, free from Probate Duty, in terms of "Married Women's Property Act, 1870."

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES and Assurances by a LIMITED NUMBER OF PREMIUMS, each Premium securing a paid-up Policy.

SURRENDER VALUES given for Policies after three years.

FOREIGN RESIDENCE and TRAVELLING allowed under liberal conditions.

BONUSES EVERY FIVE YEARS.

The result of the last valuation was an addition to the Policies of £1 per cent. per annum, varying from 23 to 53 per cent. of the Premiums paid.

Assurances effected prior to 31st January will rank for an additional Year's Bonus at the next Division over those opened subsequently.

W. P. CLIREHUGH, Manager and Actuary.

MONEY, TIME, AND LIFE

are lost in the event of

ACCIDENTAL INJURY OR DEATH.

Provide against these losses by a Policy of the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE

COMPANY

Against ACCIDENTS of ALL KINDS.

The oldest and largest Accidental Assurance Company.

Hon. A. KINNAIRD, M.P., Chairman.

PAID-UP CAPITAL and RESERVE FUND, £140,000.

ANNUAL INCOME, £160,000.

£810,000 HAVE BEEN PAID AS COMPENSATION.

Bonuses allowed to Insurers of Five Years' Standing.

Apply to the Clerks at the Railway Stations, the Local Agents, or

64, CORNHILL, and 10, REGENT-STREET, LONDON.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

CLARK'S PATENT STEEL NOISELESS

SHUTTERS.—Self-coiling, fire and thief-proof. Can be adapted to any window or other opening. Prospectuses free.—CLARK and CO., Sole Patentees, Rathbone-place, W.; Paris, Manchester, Liverpool, and Dublin.

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FURNITURE, &c., application should be made to the BEDFORD PANTECHNICON COMPANY (Limited) for their Prospectus. Removals effected by large railway vans. Estimates free. Advances made if required.—Address, Manager, 194, Tottenham-court-road, W.C.

COALS.—LEA and CO'S PRICES.—Hetton or Lambton, 32s.; Hartlepool, 32s.; best Wigan, 31s.; best Silstone, 31s.; new Silstone, 29s.; Best Clay Cross, 31s.; Derby Bright, 28s.; Barnsley, 28s.; Kitchen, 26s.; Hartley, 25s.; Cobbles, 24s.; Nuts, 24s.; Steam, 28s.; Coke, 20s. per 12 sacks. Net cash. Delivered thoroughly screened. Depôts, Highbury and Highgate, N.; Kingsland, E.; Beauvoir Wharf, Kingsland-road; Great Northern Railway Stations, King's-cross and Holloway; and 4 and 5 Wharves, Regent's-park-basin.

COALS.—GEORGE J. COCKERELL and Co., Coal Merchants to the Queen and to the Royal Family. Best Wall's-end, 33s.; best Inland, 31s.; best Coke, 20s.—cash on delivery. Central Office, 13, Cornhill; West End Office, next Grosvenor Hotel, Pimlico.

COCOA-NUT MATTINGS.

"THE ORIENTAL FIBRE MAT and MATTING COMPANY have lately introduced important improvements in Cocoa-nut Mattings, which are very closely woven with a very clean and smooth surface. The novelty is that the Oriental Fibre is used for the web of the material, which gives greater firmness, substance, and durability, without costing more than mattings of the ordinary make."—*Cassell's Household Guide*, part xii., p. 371.

Sold by Drapers, Upholsterers, &c.

DOOR MATS.

ORIENTAL FIBRE MATS.—Cheap, durable, and efficient. "General Steam Navigation Company, 71, Lombard-street, London, E.C., February 8th, 1870.—I have tried your Fibre Mats at hard work in all sorts of ways. Ships, gardens, stables, and offices, as well as at my private house, and can testify that they are the cleanest that I have in use, and they appear likewise very durable.—THOS. L. BISHOP." Sold by all respectable Furnishing Houses, &c. Oriental Fibre Mat and Matting Company, Highworth, Wilts.

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WATERS' QUININE WINE

As the best Restorative for the Weak.

Sold by all Grocers.

WATERS AND SON,

34, EASTCHEAP, E.C.

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MERCHANT TAYLORS, BOYS' OUTFITTERS, &c.

SAMUEL BROTHERS' vast Stock (the largest in London) is divided into Nine Classes. Each piece of cloth and every garment is marked the class to which it belongs, and the price in plain figures.

SAMUEL BROTHERS.—GENTLEMEN'S and YOUTHS' ATTIRE.

Accurate Fit.
High-class Style.
Durable Materials.
Value for Money.
Best Workmanship.
Permanent Colours.
Superior Trimmings.
Fashionable Designs.
Gentlemanly Appearance.
Wear-resisting Properties.

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AUTUMN SUITS.			CLASS.	AUTUMN COATS.		
Business, Morning, and Travelling.	Visiting, Frock, and Cerebral.	Boys and Youths.		Business, Morning, and Travelling.	Visiting, Frock, and Cerebral.	Autumn Overcoats.
36s.	43s. 6d.	16s.	A	17s. 6d.	25s.	31s.
42s.	49s.	20s.	B	21s.	29s.	35s.
50s.	57s.	24s.	C	26s.	34s.	39s.
58s.	65s.	28s.	D	33s.	42s.	47s.
75s.	83s.	31s.	E	42s.	50s.	56s.
81s.	91s.	34s.	F	45s.	55s.	60s.
94s.	104s.	38s.	G	55s.	65s.	70s.
102s.	112s.	—	H	60s.	70s.	76s.
110s.	130s.	—	I	70s.	84s.	84s.

All sizes of every class for immediate use, or to measure. Guide to self-measurement sent free. Patterns of every class sent free. All cloths thoroughly shrunk. Perfect in style and fit. Unapproached in style.

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THE NEW "WEAR-RESISTING" FABRICS are manufactured in every style of Juvenile Costume. Suit for a Boy four feet in height, C class, 25s. Suit for a Boy four feet in height, D class, 30s. 6d. Price ascending or descending according to size.

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THE NEW ILLUSTRATED BOOK of FASHIONS contains 43 Portraits of Boy Princes of Europe, English Ministers, Statesmen, and Politicians, selected from all ranks and parties. Each Portrait (with brief biographical memoir) adorns a figure illustrating the newest and most gentlemanly styles of costume. Price 6d., or gratis to purchasers. Patterns and guide to self-measurement sent free.

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CHLORODYNE is admitted by the Profession to be the most wonderful and valuable remedy ever discovered.

CHLORODYNE is the best remedy known for Coughs, Consumption, Bronchitis, Asthma. **CHLORODYNE** effectually checks and arrests those too often fatal diseases—Diphtheria, Fever, Croup, Ague.

CHLORODYNE acts like a charm in Diarrhoea, and is the only specific in Cholera and Dysentery.

CHLORODYNE effectually cuts short all attacks of Epilepsy, Hysteria, Palpitation, and Spasms.

CHLORODYNE is the only palliative in Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Gout, Cancer, Toothache, Meningitis, &c.

From Lord FRANCIS CONYNNGHAM, Mount Charles, Donegal, 11th December, 1868.

"Lord Francis Conyngham, who this time last year bought some of Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne from Mr. Davenport, and has found it a most wonderful medicine, will be glad to have half-a-dozen bottles sent at once to the above address."

"Earl Russell communicated to the College of Physicians that he received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Manila, to the effect that Cholera has been raging fearfully, and that the ONLY remedy of any service was CHLORODYNE."—*See Lancet*, 1st December, 1864.

CAUTION.—BEWARE OF PIRACY AND IMITATIONS.

CAUTION.—Vice-Chancellor Sir W. PAGE WOOD stated that Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE was, undoubtedly, the Inventor of CHLORODYNE; that the story of the Defendant, FREEMAN, was deliberately untrue, which, he regretted to say, had been sworn to.—*See Times*, 18th July, 1864.

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PATENT "OZOKERIT" CANDLES.

IMPROVED IN COLOUR.

IMPROVED IN BURNING.

Made in all sizes, and

SOLD EVERYWHERE.

BURN THE WESTMINSTER WEDGE-FITTING COMPOSITE CANDLES.

The Best, the Cleanest, the Safest, and in the end the Cheapest

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The celebrated "UNITED SERVICE" TABLET is famed for its delightful fragrance and beneficial effect on the skin.

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Improves the appetite, and aids digestion.

Unrivalled for piquancy and flavour.

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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS,

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JOHN GOSNELL & CO'S

"CHERRY TOOTH PASTE"

Greatly excels all other preparations for the Teeth.

"AGUA AMARELLA"

Restores the Human Hair to its pristine hue, no matter at what age.

"TOILET and NURSERY POWDER"

Beautifully perfumed and guaranteed pure.

ASK for JOHN GOSNELL and CO'S, and see that you have none other than their GENUINE Articles.

Sold by all respectable

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Resident Proprietors and Managers—Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE BARTON.

The house is replete with every convenience for the full prosecution of the Hydropathic System, and possesses a high character for cleanliness and comfort. Jackson House, from its sheltered position and internal arrangement, is eminently adapted for pursuing the system during the autumn and winter months.

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The Proprietor begs to CAUTION the Public against being imposed upon by unprincipled tradesmen, who, with a view of deriving greater profit, are manufacturing and vending SPURIOUS IMITATIONS of the above article.

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And see that you have it.—12, Soho-square, London, W.

"FOR the BLOOD is the LIFE."—See Deuteronomy, chap. xii., verse 23.

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The GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER and RESTORER, For cleansing and clearing the blood from all impurities, cannot be too highly recommended.

For Scrofula, Scurvy, Skin Diseases, and sores of all kinds, it is a never-failing and permanent cure.

It Cures Old Sores, Cures Ulcerated Sores on the Neck, Cures Ulcerated Sore Legs, Cures Blackheads, or Pimples on the Face, Cures Scurvy Sores, Cures Cancerous Ulcers, Cures Blood and Skin Diseases, Cures Glandular Swellings, Clears the Blood from all Impure Matter, From whatever cause arising.

As this Mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, the Proprietor solicits sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

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Charles Dickens, in "Household Words," said of the matron of Gable College—"She greatly believed in 'DREDGE'S HEAL ALL,' and so did those boys who were most given to breaking their shins or elbows."

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WATCHES, 20 gs., 30 gs., 40 gs.**BENNETT'S LADIES' GOLD KEYLESS**
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1s. 11d. per yard. Wool Repps, various colours, 2s. 9d.
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Market Value. The above are worth the notice of large
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TABLE GLASS OF ALL KINDS.

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Moderator Lamps, and Lamps for India.

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Sold by most Chemists in bottles at 4s. each. Wholesale
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LEVER TRUSS, requiring no steel spring round
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cannot so fully, nor with the same comfort, obtain from any
other apparatus or truss as from that which we have the
highest satisfaction in thus recommending."—*Church and*
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to King's College Hospital; T. Callaway, Esq., Senior
Assistant-Surgeon to Guy's Hospital; W. Coulson, Esq., F.R.S.,
Surgeon to the Magdalen Hospital; T. Blizard Culling, Esq.,
F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the London Hospital; W. J. Fisher,
Esq., Surgeon-in-Chief to the Metropolitan Police Force,
Aston Key, Esq., Surgeon to Prince Albert; Robert Liston,
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to the Manufacturer.

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Price of a Single Truss, 16s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.,
Postage, free.Price of a Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d.
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Post Office Orders to be made payable to John White, Post
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pressible, and the best invention for giving efficient and per-
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porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and is drawn on
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HEALTH, STRENGTH, ENERGY.—**PEPPER'S QUININE and IRON TONIC**
strengthens the nerves, enriches the blood, promotes appe-
tite, and will completely restore to health. Bottles, 4s. 6d.
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(Pepper's preparation) will restore in a few days grey or pre-
maturely light hair to its original colour with perfect safety
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By post 14 stamps.Now ready, cloth extra, gilt edges, with 76 Illustrations and
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